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# Parliament

# peoples places

Your Guide to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario



# The Ontario Legislative Building

#### GLOSSARY OF ARCHITECTURAL TERMS

**BALUSTRADE:** a series of railing supports on stairways.

**CAPITALS:** the top part crowning a column of a building.

**FOLIAGE:** cluster of leaves, flowers or branches.

FRIEZE: a sculpted or richly ornamented band of carvings.

GARGOYLES: mythical or symbolic carvings of human or animal faces.

PULLEYS: grooved wheels for cords to pass over to hoist, used especially for lifting heavy objects in construction such as bricks, stones and other materials.

SCAFFOLDING: temporary structure of poles or tubes and planks providing workers with a platform to stand on during the construction of a building or house. In 1873, the Department of Public Works noted the deteriorating and glowded conditions of the Parliament Bulding on Front Street. In 1880, the legislature approved the department's \$500,000 estimate for a new building, suggesting the use of Conadian material/wherever possible.

Built primarily of Canadian materials, such as pink sandstone from the Credit Valley and Orangeville in Ontario, the Building stretches 150 metres from east to west. On April 4, 1893, opening ceremonies were hald in the new Legislative Building of Cueen's Park. The general public was welcomed into the Building with its lively music and dancing, new hvinkling gas and electric lights and whispers of attic ghosts.

Before the turn of the century, numerous ghost sightings included an old soldier in full regimental dress and three female inmates of an old asylum, which ance occupied the site.

The round opening in the west tower was designed for a "massive illuminated clock", For unknown reasons, a clock was never invalided

The placement of the Chamberilla a front and

Parliament. It has a symbolic purpose, positioning

government accountability and visibility up front

central position was unusual for houses of

The cost for the new Legislative Building was estimated at \$750,000. This cost soon rose to \$1,300,000 plus \$200,000 for fittings and furnishings.

An architectural style called Richardson Ramanesque influenced the design of the Bulding. This style is characterized by walls of rack-faced square stone, semi-circular arches, detailed curtain capitals, layered convings and upper level galleries.

> Front and centre of the Legislative Building is a frieze measuring 21.5 metres long and 4.5 metres high.

Over 51 tonnes of copper and more than 10.5

million bricks, made by the inmates of the central

prison on Straction Avenue, Toronto, were used

in the construction of the Legislative Buildina

n celebration of the centennial of the leaislative

Building in 1993, a time capsule containing

placed under one of the copper torchlike objects

on the centre roof of the Building. This capsule is

not to be opened until the year 2093.

memorabilia of modern-day Ontario was

were lashed together.

The Legislative Building took six years to

complete, not surprising given its sheer size

Cranes to lift the stone blocks in place were

scaffolding consisted of trunks of trees that

and the construction methods of the time.

little more than large pulleys and the

There are countless carvings of famous Canadians, gargoyles, mythical beasts, Rowers and trangled foliage in many of the nooks and crannies, on the archways, columns and balustrades on the inside and outside of the building.

According to Queen's Park folk history, Premier Sir Oliver Mowal is said to have wandered in 1893 how the new impressive Legislative Building would be filled. Within 20 years, the Building would be filled and would endure as the symbol of provincial parliament.

Although most prominent buildings have the date the building was constructed and a commemoration carved into a cornerstone, the Ontario Legislative Building doesn't hav lane. There is no record of any cornerstonelaving ceremony.

laying ceremony.

Following a lire in 1909, the west wing was rebuilt. A floor was added, providing more office space to members but giving the Building a formerhal poised appearance. The solidatione was brought from Sackville, New Brijnswick, which is why the two sides of the Building are different in colour.

n 1885, architect Richard Waite was chosen

to review two architectural plans for the

Legislative Building, After rejecting both

because they were unsuitable and delective

Waite was invited to submit his own plan. I

the architect for the Legislative Building.

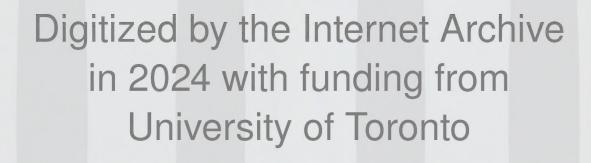
1886 he was chosen by the government to be

A rebuilt and more fireproof west wing designed by architect EJ. Lennax opened in 1912 with write Italian marble and mosaic floors replacing the original dark woods and metals.

# Parliamen peoples places

Your Guide to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario





https://archive.org/details/31761118925155

# Welcome to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Covernment Publications

Welcome to the Legislative Building at Queen's Park in the centre of Metropolitan Toronto. For more than 100 years Ontario residents and visitors from around the world have welcomed, paraded, mourned, demonstrated and celebrated inside and outside the walls of this building.

This historic site is home to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, the parliament which debates and makes the laws affecting the more than 10 million residents of Ontario. As you read about and visit Queen's Park you will notice the words *house*, *parliament* and *legislature* are often used interchangeably and all refer to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

**Parliament, People and Places** has been produced to prepare you for your visit to Queen's Park. This material was written and designed to make the sometimes complex operation of the legislature easier to understand.

Parliament, People and Places is divided into sections which are easily identified by a specific colour and pictorial symbol. Each section contains interesting and useful information that can be adapted for different age and education levels. We have left space on each pocket for you to write down any other information which you may want to include for your own reference. Some sections may include ready-to-use illustrations that can be easily reproduced for a class.

Your introduction to Ontario's parliament starts with the dust jacket of this book which opens into a colourful poster. This visual display is full of images and information about the Legislative Building which will be a useful resource in your classroom. In addition to the information inside, you'll also find more pull-outs that will assist in explaining the provincial parliament. Cette publication est disponsible en français.

We look forward to your visit and participation in the education and interpretation program here at Queen's Park.

# Your Visit to Queen's Park

Visiting the Legislative Building at Queen's Park is one of the best ways to learn about your provincial parliament. Free education and interpretation tours of the Legislative Building are available year round. Tours are either half an hour or an hour in length and are available in both English and French. You may tour the Legislative Building weekdays from September to May. From Victoria Day weekend in May to Labour Day in early September, weekend tours are also available.

Legislative sessions are held from March to June and September to December. Passes for the galleries are necessary when the legislature is sitting. These may be obtained at the Information and general inquiry desk located in the main lobby of the Legislative Building.

Reservations are required for group tours. Depending on availability, some tours may also be combined with a parliamentary session. These tours are about an hour and a half in length. Escorted sessions are available Monday through Thursday when the House is in session. Personal belongings such as electronic devices (headsets, video game units and other metal devices) are not permitted in the Public Galleries. In order to avoid risk of loss, it is recommended that they not be brought to the Legislative Building.

Eating facilities are limited in the Legislative Building. Arrangements may be made to use the cafeteria space in the nearby Macdonald Block. Facilities for coat check and group activities are also limited. The Building has wheelchair access. Braille maps for the visually impaired may be borrowed from the Interparliamentary and Public Relations Branch.

Located in the Building's main lobby, the Legislative Gift Shop offers a wide selection of Canadian crafts, souvenirs, booklets, postcards and gifts reflecting the heritage, artisanship and technology of Ontario.

For general information about the Legislative Building, tour bookings and Public Gallery passes, please contact:

Interparliamentary and Public Relations Branch
Room 191, Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A2
(416) 325-7500

# history.

# did know...

...that 1893 was not only
the year the Legislative
Building at Queen's Park
opened, but also the year
the first Stanley Cup
was awarded to an
amateur hockey team
in Montreal?



his section will introduce you to our parliamentary



heritage and the roots of our system of government. You will find information about how parliament made its way to Canada, the history of our provincial capital and Ontario's first government. You will also find a symbols pull-out which can be easily reproduced and given to students.

# history and be

# history Heritage

# In **History and Heritage** you will find:

- Our Parliamentary Heritage
- Responsible Government
- How Parliament made its way to Canada
- Ontario's First Government
- The British North American Act
- The History of Toronto as the seat of Provincial Parliament
- Toronto trivia
- Other

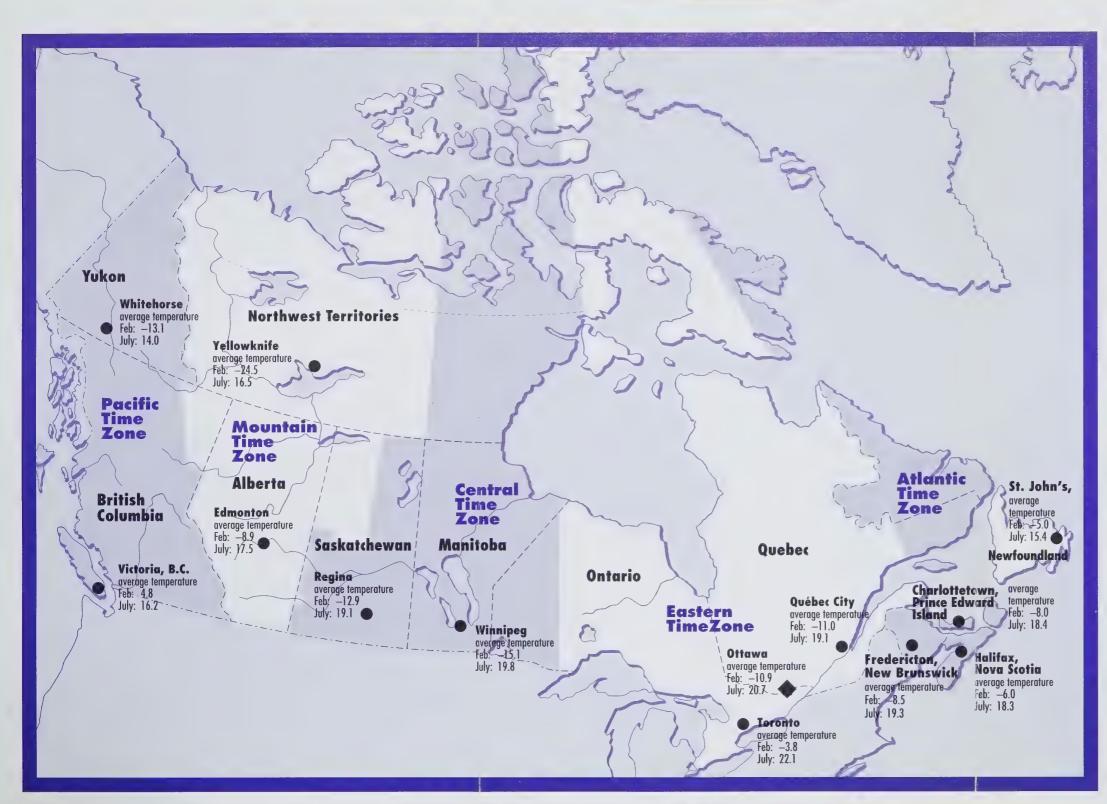
## Moosonee Average precipitation-Rain 500 mm Snow 225 cm Kenora Average precipitation-Rain 473 mm Snow 178 cm **Thunder Bay** Ottawa Average precipitation Rain 547 mm National Capital Average precipitation-Rain 702 mm Sault St. Marie Snow 196 cm Average precipitation-Rain 633 mm Snow 222 cm Snow 316 cm **Kingston** Cernwall Average precipitation-Rain 791 mm precipitation-Rain 753 mm Snow 183 cm 🞏 Snow 208 cm Toronto Provincial Capital precipitation-Niagara Falls Rain 689 mm Average precipitation-Rain 789 mm Snow 135 cm Snow 164 cm Windsor Average precipitation Rain 788 mm Snow 123 cm All precipitation figures show yearly averages.

# Ontario

# ... at a glance

- Ontario: derived from an Iroquois term meaning beautiful lake or sparkling waters.
- Ontario is the second largest province in Canada.
- Area of Ontario: 916,733.7 sq. km.
- Population of Ontario: 10.746 million. Information courtesy of 1991 census, Statistics Canada
- The population of Metro Toronto according to the 1991 census is 2.3 million or 21 per cent of Ontario's total population and about 38 per cent of the population of southern Ontario.
- Ontario was one of the first four provinces along with Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick to join Confederation in 1867.
- Distance from Toronto to Ottawa 400 km.
- Highest temperature ever recorded in Ontario was on July 16, 1936 at Fort Frances (just west of Thunder Bay) at 42.2 °C. Just one year later, the coldest temperature recorded was at Iroquois Falls (close to Timmins) on Jan. 23, 1935 at -58.3 °C.

# Canada



# Canada at a glance

- *Canada*: the term comes from the Huron-Iroquois word for village or settlement.
- Canada is the second largest country in the world.
- Area of Canada: 9,203,210.48 sq. km.
- Population of Canada: 28.753 million Information courtesy of 1991 census, Statistics Canada.
- Distance from Toronto to Vancouver, B.C. 4,467 km

### Temperatures indicated on map

The average temperature (in degrees Celsius) in each of the capital cities across Canada for the months of February and July.

#### **Time Zones**

There are 6 different time zones across Canada.

### When it is 5:00 p.m. in Toronto, it is:

- **2:00 p.m.** in British Columbia (Pacific time zone)
- **3:00 p.m.** in Alberta and the western half of Saskatchewan (Mountain time zone)
- 4:00 p.m. in the eastern half of Saskatchewan, all of Manitoba and approx. one third of Ontario (the part that borders Manitoba) (Central time zone)
- **5:00 p.m.** in the rest of Ontario and all of Quebec (Eastern time zone)
- **6:00 p.m.** in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and P.E.I. (Atlantic time zone)
- **6:30 p.m.** in Newfoundland (Newfoundland time zone)
- \* for the Yukon and the NWT, their time zones follow from the area beneath them ie. part of the NWT follows Mountain time and the other part follows Central time.

# Our parliamentary heritage

Our system of **parliamentary democracy** was brought to us from Great Britain but has roots that stretch back thousands of years. The word *parliament* is derived from the French word *parler*, which means to speak. The word *democracy* comes from the Greek words *demos*, meaning people and *kratia*, meaning rule. Therefore, democracy literally means, the People's Rule. This concept dates back about 2,500 years to ancient Greece when citizens gathered together to make decisions about the governing of their city-states.

Our modern concept of parliamentary democracy can be traced back to England following a revolt in 1215 when barons and lords of King John demanded the recognition of their rights. As a result, the King signed the **Magna Carta**, a charter which attacked the absolute powers of the monarch and guaranteed fundamental rights and privileges. The Magna Carta's main provisions were:

- 1. A fair trial for all.
- 2. Preservation of ancient liberties.
- 3. Fundamental principles of government.
- 4. The requirement of the King to uphold laws.
- 5. The prohibition of the King from making new laws without reference to the Great Council.

The Magna Carta represented the beginning of parliamentary democracy because the monarch could not make laws without consulting others and could no longer ignore the rights of the people. Over time, the Magna Carta was revised and required the monarch to govern with parliament to gain consent for taxes. Throughout the period from the 13th to 19th centuries, the British parliament struggled with the monarch on taxes, spending and the making of laws. Eventually, parliament gained more and more control and the monarch's role became more and more ceremonial, routinely approving the decisions of parliament. Over time, the Parliament established further rights which would make it stronger and further protect it from the King's anger. This became known as **parliamentary privilege.** In 1688, a Declaration of Rights was issued to affirm the rights of British subjects. This proclaimed freedom of speech and debates in parliamentary proceedings. Amendments in 1689 resulted in establishing parliament's supremacy over the Crown.



# Our parliamentary heritage

Today, parliamentary privilege means that our representatives have certain privileges because they are members. They may write or change the rules by majority of the Assembly. Members cannot be sued or prosecuted for what they say during legislative proceedings, either on the floor of the House or in a committee, even if their remarks may seem to damage another member's reputation. Through a **point of privilege** a member may bring a matter to the Speaker's attention when they believe that their privileges have been breached.

# Responsible government

A system of **responsible government** resulted from the development of the parliamentary structure. In Canada, responsible government calls for the formal Head of State to act under the advice of the ministers who are members of the Legislature. Despite the power of the government, it cannot govern without the approval of a majority in the Assembly. For example, if a major policy or bill is defeated, such as the budget, the government may have to resign and call an election.

This rarely happens in our system although there may be more of a chance of it happening in a minority government situation, which is when the number of seats on the opposition side of the house total more than the seats held by the government. The origins of responsible government in Britain began in 1742 with the resignation of Prime Minister Sir Robert Walpole. After two of his major policies were defeated in the House of Commons, he decided to step down.

In Canada, the Queen is the head of state. The Queen is represented in Canada by the Governor General. In Ontario, the Queen's representative is the Lieutenant Governor who is appointed by the Governor General on the recommendation of the Prime Minister. The Lieutenant Governor gives **Royal Assent** on all bills which have been given third reading. In most cases it is after Royal Assent that bills become laws. It is the Lieutenant Governor who opens, suspends or **prorogues** and dissolves the legislature.

At the beginning of each session of parliament, the Lieutenant Governor reads the **Speech from the Throne** which announces the initiatives the government intends to pursue in the upcoming session.

The Lieutenant Governor usually acts as our provincial host and holds special receptions and functions when Ontario has dignitaries visiting from other provinces and countries.





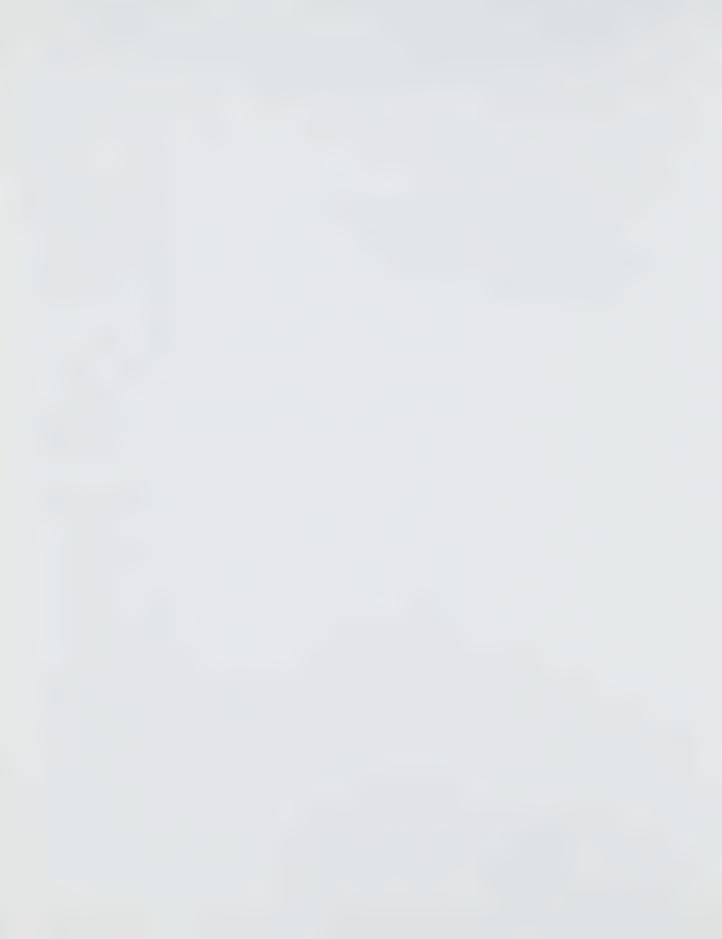
# How parliament made its way to Canada

Our parliamentary system began shortly after the end of a four year war between England and France in 1759. As a result, the Treaty of Paris was signed in 1763, giving Britain all the territories of New France, the area which included territory from what we now know as Quebec and Ontario. This new colony needed a system of government so the Constitutional Act of 1791 was drawn up. The Act split New France into two, creating the provinces of Lower Canada (now Quebec) and Upper Canada (now Ontario). The two provinces were provided with a Lieutenant Governor and an Upper and Lower House. The Upper House included the Legislative Council made up of seven members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor. The Lower House was composed of 16 elected members. In addition, there was an Executive Council to serve as an advisory body to the Lieutenant Governor. The Lieutenant Governor was given wide powers, having the right to open, **prorogue** and dissolve the legislature and to refuse assent to bills passed in both houses.

Until 1840, appointed governors from Great Britain ran this colony. During this time, the government was composed of the wealthier section of society, especially landowners. This group was known as the **Family Compact**. There was another group which had opposing interests to the Family Compact. This group was called the Reformists and came into being because of discontent with the widespread powers of the Lieutenant Governor and the non-elected officials. The Reformists supported the idea of responsible government or a government which would listen to the needs of the people. This growing discontent led to two armed rebellions – one in Upper Canada, the other in Lower Canada in 1837. These two rebellions drew attention to the dissatisfaction in the Canadas and prompted Britain to send the Earl of Durham to investigate the colonial troubles. Durham was appointed Governor General for all of British North America and it was his responsibility to conduct a detailed inquiry into the state of the provinces.

The result of Durham's time in Canada produced the *Report on the Affairs in British North America* in 1839, most commonly referred to as *Durham's Report*. Durham made several recommendations for British North America. One of the recommendations urged a union of the two provinces resulting in the Union Act of 1840 which was officially proclaimed in February 1841. The parliament of the united provinces then had more control in governing.





# Ontario's first government

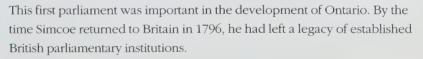
Under the Constitutional Act of 1791, the area which we now call Ontario became known as the province of Upper Canada. The leader of this new province was Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe. In 1791, he established the first government of Upper Canada in Newark, present day Niagara-on-the-Lake. The government would reside here for five years. Newark was chosen to be the colony's first capital for military reasons. The area surrounding Fort Niagara provided protection from the Americans. Simcoe foresaw Newark as the centre of Loyalist immigration with the growing settlement of soldiers and their families. It was Simcoe who laid the foundations for further development of the province and later, founded the capital of Ontario – Toronto.

#### The first Provincial Parliament

The first session of parliament in Ontario took place on September 17, 1792, in Newark. When parliament met, Simcoe wanted everything to mirror the British Parliament. This opening of parliament marked the introduction of representative government in Ontario. There are four possible locations for the site of Ontario's first parliament but most historical documents point to Navy Hall as the likely site. Other suggestions include Butler's Barracks, Free Mason's Hall and even one of the tents owned by Governor Simcoe. It is possible that over the five sessions held in Newark, parliament met in several or all of these places.

Navy Hall, the official residence of the Lieutenant Governor, was a complex of three or four wooden buildings remodelled in 1792 and included an assembly hall. It is known that meetings of the Executive Council were held in this chamber

In 1792, Simcoe issued a proclamation that divided Upper Canada into 19 counties, providing a representative from each county to be elected to the Legislative Assembly. This was the beginning of the drawing of electoral boundaries in Ontario. An important piece of legislation passed by Simcoe's government concerned slavery. The legislation passed prohibited the importation of slaves into Upper Canada and granted freedom for those born in the province when they reached the age of 25.







## The British North America Act

A **constitution** is a document which sets out basic principles and laws of a nation, state or social group. These principles and laws determine the powers and duties of a government and guarantee certain rights to the people under it. In the spring of 1867, the British Parliament passed the British North America Act (BNA Act) which created the constitutional framework for the Dominion of Canada and four original provinces of Canada. On July 1, 1867, the provinces of Lower Canada (Quebec), Upper Canada (Ontario), Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were united as a country. Although the unification or **confederation** formed a federal government, separate governments for each province were maintained. Ottawa was chosen as the new federal capital, and the first Canadian prime minister was Sir John A. Macdonald. The first premier of the newly-created province of Ontario was John Sandfield Macdonald.

In 1870, the Dominion of Canada expanded by taking control of vast lands held by the fur-trading empire, the Hudson Bay Company. This land included what is now Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

In 1931, the British wanted to pass the Statute of Westminster to give all Commonwealth countries full legislative autonomy. Canada opposed this proposal because the provincial governments were concerned about maintaining their rights and powers outlined in the BNA Act. The provinces felt that these rights might be threatened if the federal government was given the right to alter the constitution. The Statute of Westminster was eventually passed with safeguards for the provinces.

However, it would be many years later that Canada would have full control over its own constitution. The Constitution Act of 1982 assured the provinces that any constitutional changes which would affect them could not be made without their consent. This Act also contains the Charter of Rights and Freedoms which outlines specific rules for the provincial assemblies and guarantees the rights and freedoms of Canadians which both the federal and provincial governments must respect.





# History of Toronto as the seat of provincial parliament

Ontario's seat of parliament is located in the province's capital city, Toronto. The first European explorers to discover this area were the French, who arrived in the early seventeenth century. In 1750, French fur traders from Lower Canada built Fort Rouillé to protect themselves against an increasing English intrusion on their trading. In 1759, during the Seven Years' War, the French burned the fort and withdrew from the area.

Under the Treaty of Paris signed in 1763, this area came under British rule and was to be referred to as British North America. Under the Constitutional Act of 1791, the area which we now call Ontario, became known as the province of Upper Canada. The leader of the new province was Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe who held the first parliament of Upper Canada in Newark (present day Niagara-on-the-Lake) in 1792.

In 1793, Simcoe decided to find a new location for the capital because Newark was too close to the American border. This made it difficult to defend against an American attack. Simcoe's first choice for a new capital was London but this was considered to be too far inland. As a result, a more central location on Lake Ontario was thought to be better for military reasons. Simcoe chose the site of the abandoned Fort Rouillé, and established a new town which he called York. By 1796, parliament was meeting in York. In 1834, the town of York became a city and its name returned to Toronto, a Huron word for the area.

Today, Toronto is the place where parliamentarians meet to debate, discuss and pass the laws that affect the lives of all Ontarians.





# Toronto is famous for...

being Canada's largest city. The greater Toronto area has a population of about 3.4 million, while Metro Toronto has a population of 2.3 million. The city ranks ninth in North America in population and represents about 14 per cent of Canada's population. About 38 per cent of Ontarians make Toronto their home.

having the longest street in the world. Yonge Street is the world's longest street, which Lieutenant Governor John Graves Simcoe named after Sir George Yonge, the British Secretary for War between 1782 and 1794. The street goes straight through Toronto from Lake Ontario to Rainy River, Ontario, which is near the Manitoba border.

the CN Tower, the world's largest free standing structure. The tower is 544.5 metres tall.

the Skydome, the world's first stadium with a fully-retractable roof.

being the site of Babe Ruth's first home run as a professional ball player. This took place at a game played on September 15, 1914, at Hanlan's Point Stadium on the Toronto Islands.

the Toronto Blue Jays. This professional baseball team won back-to-back World Series titles in 1992 and 1993. The Blue Jays are the first Canadian team to win a World Series title.

world class theatre. Toronto has the third largest theatre industry in the world, surpassed only by London and New York.

being a double in many Hollywood films. Only Los Angeles and New York surpass Toronto in being the most sought-after film locations. Among the many cities Toronto has doubled for are New York, Chicago, Boston and Washington.

the cure for diabetes. Sir Frederick Banting of Alliston, Ontario and student Charles Best discovered insulin at the University of Toronto in the 1920s. The first injection of insulin in the world was given at Toronto General Hospital in 1922.



# Toronto is famous for...

the creation of Superman. Torontonian Joe Shuster developed the caped crusader in the 1930s. The *Daily Planet*, in fact, was originally called the *Daily Star* modelled after the *Toronto Star*.

its nickname, Hogtown. Toronto was given this nickname in the late 1800s because of a large bacon factory inside the city. Later, this nickname became a reference to the wealth in the city.

Pablum. This cereal for babies was created at the world famous Hospital for Sick Children located in downtown Toronto.

# **Symbols of Ontario**

Ontario is the Iroquois word for sparkling water or beautiful lake. The meaning of the name is symbolic of the fact that Ontario is bounded by water on three sides. To the north we have Hudson and James Bays, on the south we have the St. Lawrence River and Great Lakes and to the east is the Ottawa River. Ontario has other symbols that represent our history, people, values and traditions - things that make the province unique.

#### **PROVINCIAL COAT OF ARMS**

The shield of the Province of Ontario was granted by Royal Warrant of Oueen Victoria in 1868. The crest, supporters and motto were granted by King Edward VII in 1909. The banner of St. George, a red cross on a white background, occupies the shield. It is named after St. George, the patron saint of England and a knight of the highest honour. According to mythology, he led the English to victory over the dragon at Byrut. Above the shield is the crest which is a black bear on a wreath of gold and green, the principal colours of the provincial shield of arms. A moose to the left and a deer to the right support the arms. These animals are common to find in northern Ontario.

At the bottom of the coat of arms is the provincial motto in Latin: *Ut Incepit Fidelis Sic Permanet* meaning *loyal she began, loyal she remains.* 

#### **EASTERN WHITE PINE**

The white pine was an important source of income and trade during pioneer days and continues to be a valuable resource for Ontario. In 1984, the white pine was named the official tree by the Legislature.

#### **AMETHYST**

The province's gemstone is the semi-precious purple gemstone, the amethyst, which is found in the Thunder Bay area of Northern Ontario. The Legislature proclaimed it the official gemstone in 1975.

#### TRILLIUM

The white trillium blooms in late April and early May in the deciduous forests and woodlands of Ontario. The profusion of trilliums throughout most of the province made this flower a natural choice as the floral emblem. In 1937, the trillium became the province's official flower.

#### **GREAT SEAL OF ONTARIO**

The great seal of Ontario was appointed by Her Majesty Queen Victoria and has been used since January 1st, 1870. This seal has the Royal Coat of Arms in the centre surmounted by a crown. The familiar shield of Ontario is located below this, where one will find the St. George's Cross situated above the three maple leaves.

# **FLAG OF ONTARIO** The Red Ensign with the Union Jack in the upper left-hand corner, with the shield of the province on the right is the flag

and proclaimed into force on May 21, 1965.

of Ontario. This flag was given Royal Assent on April 14, 1965

# **Symbols of Ontario**

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PROVINCIAL COAT OF ARMS



EASTERN WHITE PINE



**AMETHYST** 



### TRILLIUM



GREAT SEAL OF ONTARIO



FLAG OF ONTARIO





- that there are about 1,000 windows in the Legislative Building?
- that 195.7 tonnes of slate is used to cover the roof of the Building? This is equivalent to the weight of seven streetcars!



he Ontario Legislative Building not only serves as the meeting place of provincial parliamentarians but is home to various works of art which recognize our history and heritage. Around the legislative grounds you'll see statues that commemorate historic milestones of both Canada and Ontario. The Building itself is architecturally unique. The architect of the Ontario Legislative Building paid special attention to everything right down to the stonecarvings, the ironwork and the doorknobs!





# architecture architecture

# In Art and Architecture you will find:

- The Statues of the Legislative Building Grounds
- The Architectural Style of the Legislative Building
- Biography of Richard Waite, the architect of the Legislative Building of Ontario
- The Ontario Legislative Building: Past and Present
- Other

## art and architecture

# The statues of the Legislative Building grounds

Queen's Park had its beginnings in the Victorian era. Queen Victoria was the Queen at the time the Building opened in 1893. Her name was lent to the site though she herself never visited Canada. Instead, her son Prince Edward came to Toronto to dedicate the site in her name in 1860. A statue of her sits on the east lawn at the front of the Legislative Building. Her statue was originally meant to be placed on the southern end of the park by College Street, but the statue was not completed in time. In the meantime, a statue of John A. Macdonald was put in her place. John A. Macdonald was one of the fathers of Confederation and was the first Prime Minister of Canada in 1867.

From the southern end of the park you can see the statues of Premier James Whitney and George Brown, the founder of the *Globe* newspaper in 1844, which is now the *Globe and Mail*. Brown was a key supporter of Confederation.

Whitney was Ontario's sixth premier and established the world's first publicly-owned power system, now known as Ontario Hydro. Whitney also established the Royal Ontario Museum and the Ontario College of Art. He also devised Ontario's motto *Ut Incepit Fidelis Sic Permanet* which means *loyal she began, loyal she remains*.

As you walk east of the Building, you will see a statue that commemorates the end of the North-West Rebellion. Louis Riel led the Métis in this Rebellion in 1885 which arose out of their frustration with the federal government, largely over land settlements. This uprising at Batoche, Saskatchewan, was put down by federal government troops. After being charged with treason, Riel was sentenced to hang in 1885. Riel is considered the father of Manitoba and recent historians have now finally acknowledged his significance to Canada. His name is not found anywhere on the North-West Rebellion monument at Queen's Park.

To the left of this monument is a statue of Ontario's first Lieutenant Governor, John Graves Simcoe. Simcoe was the Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada in 1792. Because of military concerns, he moved the province's capital to what is now known as Toronto.



When you walk towards the front of the Building, behind the statue of Queen Victoria, you'll see a statue of Ontario's first premier – John Sandfield Macdonald. Macdonald defeated George Brown's Reform Party to win the first provincial elections in 1867. He was premier of Ontario

# The statues of the Legislative Building grounds

from 1867 to 1871. An early believer in the concept of a bicultural country, Macdonald was opposed to the concept of a melting pot. As the first Premier, he chose prominent Ontario leaders to fill the cabinet posts and brought together a non-party administration which became known as the *Patent Combination*.

On the west side of the Building is the statue of Sir Oliver Mowat, Ontario's longest-serving Premier. Mowat was premier of Ontario for almost 24 years, between 1872 to 1896. The social reforms introduced under Mowat included the introduction of kindergarten and the establishment of the Children's Aid Society. He was a key participant at the Quebec Conference leading to Canada's Confederation in 1867.

At the west side of the Building is a statue of William Lyon Mackenzie, the man who led the Upper Canada Rebellion of 1837. He became the first mayor of Toronto in 1834, the year in which York was officially renamed Toronto. Mackenzie was a strong proponent of government reform and advocated responsible government. After attempts to bring about change through parliamentary means, he chose to lead the armed rebellion in 1837.

Directly behind the Legislative Building is Queen's Park, the term most people use to refer to the legislative grounds. This is actually not a part of the grounds but is leased to the City of Toronto. In 1854, the University of Toronto leased all of Queen's Park to the City of Toronto for 999 years with the provision that the site be reserved for the provincial parliament.

# art and architecture

# The architecture of the Legislative Building

Built mostly from Canadian materials, the Ontario Legislative Building stretches 150 metres from east to west. The Building took six years to complete because of its size and the construction methods at the time.

When the Building finally opened in 1893, it was noted for its unique architectural style. This style described as *Richardson Romanesque* made Ontario's Legislative Building unusual for its time.

There are countless carvings of gargoyles and mythical beasts on archways and columns throughout the Building. Inside the Chamber, you'll find beautiful woodcarvings which include Latin inscriptions. Outside the Building, front and centre, is a frieze with the Great Seal of Ontario surrounded by figures who represent music, agriculture, commerce, art, science, law, philosophy, architecture, engineering and literature.

The architect of this unique building was Richard A. Waite, who was influenced by the style of Henry Hobson Richardson, a popular Chicago architect. Richardson was an architect who adapted the Italian Romanesque style to North American architecture, a style characterized by heavy, rugged stone walls and round arches. With its Celtic and Indo-Germanic carvings, the Ontario Legislative Building embraces this style.

Richard Waite took great care to illuminate every part of the Building with natural light by using enormous plate glass windows and stained glass windows. His designs were implemented exactly as he drew them, right down to the details in woodcarving, trimming and metalwork.

Unlike the design of most legislatures during this time, Waite placed the Chamber of the Ontario Legislative Building in a front and central position over the main entrance. It has a symbolic purpose, placing government accountability and visibility up front.

The Chamber represents the heart of the legislative process and measures 18 metres wide, 24 metres long and 14.5 metres high. It is highly decorated with rich carvings and ornate brasswork. Mahogany and sycamore were the chief woods used in the Building's interior. Wood in the Chamber was carved by a team of craftsmen working under the guidance of Scots-born master carver William McCormack. With the exception of the Speaker's dais or platform, the decoration was unplanned. The carvers were given a free hand and they added mythical beasts, foliage, faces and Latin inscriptions to the Chamber.



# The Architecture of the Legislative Building

The carvings and decoration of the Chamber symbolize dark forces both controlled and tamed. Gargoyles in the Chamber and on the exterior of the Building keep evil spirits away. The Latin inscriptions carved at the top of the pillars supporting the Speaker's and Press galleries offer advice on good government.

The Ontario Legislative Building is still a distinctive place where one will find vestiges of Ontario's history and heritage. Although there have been some changes to the Building's layout and form since 1893, the outstanding characteristics of Waite's design are still intact more than a hundred years later.

# art and architecture

# Richard A. Waite 1848–1911 architect of the Legislative Building of Ontario

Richard A. Waite was born in London, England, in 1848. His family moved to New York in 1857 where Waite would later study mechanics. In 1874, Waite opened his architectural office in Buffalo.

By 1875, Waite secured a local reputation with his "splendid' and "elegant" German Insurance Building in Buffalo. His Toronto career began when he was hired to design the *Mail* newspaper's office which opened in 1880 at the corner of Bay and King streets. The recognition he gained for this building led to an appointment to the Jury of the International Architectural Competition for the new Ontario Legislative Building.

In 1885, Waite was chosen to review the two sets of tenders for the Legislative Building. He rejected both plans as unsuitable and defective in the areas of heating, lighting, and ventilation. Waite was then invited to submit his own plan for the building and was selected to be the architect in 1886.

The style *Richardson Romanesque* influenced Waite in his design of the Legislative Building. He used many other styles in later building designs. This was a style that was fashionable in the United States but had not yet reached Canada prior to the construction of the Ontario Legislative Building.





# art and architecture

# The Ontario Legislative Building then and now

Since its opening in 1893, the Ontario Legislative Building has undergone many changes both major and minor. The most significant change to Richard Waite's design happened after a fire which destroyed the west wing of the Building.

### The fire of 1909

On September 1, 1909, repairs were being made on the roof of the west wing. Tinsmiths, who were using a small charcoal stove to heat tools, left for lunch. Moments later, sparks from this stove were carried by the wind to timbers on the roof and started a fire.

As the fire alarm rang, government workers fought the blaze by shooting water up into the attic with two lines of hose. Paper, books and government documents were frantically carried away to safer areas of the Building. Meanwhile, the fire was kept from spreading to the central part of the Building.

A burning beam of attic timber crashed through a skylight and landed three stories below. The blaze ate its way through the library, consuming over 100,000 books and many public records. The fire also destroyed offices of the Registrar General and the Labour and Health Departments. Fire fighters, however, succeeded in stopping the fire from reaching the Lieutenant Governor's suite. Damages were estimated to be \$700,000.

After the fire, an architect named E.J. Lennox rebuilt the west wing which opened in 1912. The new west wing was fireproof, had white Italian marble columns and mosaic floors, replacing the original dark woods and metals. A north wing was also added which included more offices and a new legislative library. This gave the Building a somewhat lop-sided look. The sandstone for this wing, the pinker New Brunswick version from Sackville, was integrated with the original Ontario Credit Valley sandstone which was no longer available. The difference in colour can still be seen today.

## The legislative grounds

The steps at the main entrance of the Building and front lawn are still used for symbolic and public events today. The northern part of the legislative grounds has changed considerably since 1893. Greenhouses in a north courtyard were removed to make way for the addition of the north wing and more parking. Other changes include the widening of driveways to allow easier access to traffic and extensive on-site parking. Tree, planting areas and statues were also added to the grounds.





# Pariam

# did know...

many people were afraid to be appointed to the position of Speaker? You see, if the king or queen was told news they didn't want to hear, they would take their revenge by beheading the Speaker!

Read on.....



There are many identifiable people who are involved in the day-to-day activities at Queen's Park. In this section you will learn more about the people who take part in the parliamentary process in Ontario.



# Parliamentary Players

# In Parliamentary Players you will find:

- The Speaker
- The Clerk
- The Sergeant at Arms
- The Premier and the Executive Council
- The Opposition and the Shadow Cabinet
- Our Members of Provincial Parliament
- Other

# parimentary Payers

# The Speaker

**The Speaker** is the key player in the Chamber and one of the most important members in the legislature. The historic role of the Speaker was to "speak" to the monarch and the monarch's advisers on behalf of the parliamentarians. The first person to be named Speaker was Sir Thomas Hungeford in 1377 who advised the monarch of parliament's resolutions.

The position of Speaker was not an enviable one – often the individual chosen to be Speaker was dragged to the Chair. There was good reason for the hesitation. If the message was one that angered the king or queen, the monarch would take revenge by beheading them. The first beheading took place in 1410 and in the history of parliament, at least nine speakers died for telling the monarchs news they didn't want to hear.

Nowadays, the Speaker is in no danger of such threats, due in small part to the shifting of loyalty from the monarch to the parliament. This began in 1629 when King Charles I ordered Speaker Sir John Finch to adjourn a session. When the Speaker rose to obey the king, angry members tried to force him back into the Chamber reminding him that he was their servant, not the king's. Thirteen years later when Britain was on the verge of civil war in 1642, Charles I demanded the surrender of five members who had opposed his policies. This time, Speaker William Lenthall refused to obey him, saying, "I have neither eyes to see nor tongue to speak in this place but as the House is pleased to direct me, whose servant I am here." Basically he was saying he was there only to serve parliament and no longer there for the king. By the end of the 17th century, the Speaker would no longer be appointed by the monarch but by parliament. Thus began the Speaker's role as parliament's servant.

Ontario's first speaker was John Stevenson from 1867 to 1872. Today, the Speaker is the guardian of the members' rights and privileges and is the spokesperson for parliament. The Speaker still wears the traditional uniform of a black gown, white shirt, white gloves and a tricorn (three-cornered) hat.

This position of Speaker is fourth in precedence in the provincial government hierarchy following the Lieutenant Governor, Premier and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. The Speaker presides over the meetings in the house in a non-partisan and non-political manner, upholding the **Standing Orders** or the rules of procedure and ensuring that the business of the House is carried out in an orderly manner. The Speaker is also the administrative head



# The Speaker

of the Office of the Legislative Assembly, which provides support and services to members and the public.

Following a general election when the members meet at Queen's Park, the election of the new Speaker is the first order of business on the first day of the new parliamentary session. The Speaker is elected from among the Members of Provincial Parliament. Members are nominated to become Speaker. The election is by secret ballot and the vote takes place in the Chamber.

Members must also show respect for the Speaker. For instance, members cannot question the Speaker's rulings on parliamentary procedure, although they can ask for an explanation. When the Speaker rises, all members must remain in their places until the Speaker is finished. The Speaker also cannot be interrupted and all questions and comments in the house must be addressed through the Speaker.

# The Clerk

The word **Clerk** has evolved from clergyman. During the early days of parliament, the members of the clergy were virtually the only people who could read or write and therefore often acted as parliamentary administrators.

Today, the Clerk is responsible for assisting the Speaker and is the principal officer of the house. Part of the Clerk's responsibilities include advising the Speaker and members of the legislature on questions of procedure and interpretation of rules and practices in the house.

The Clerk is appointed to this position after an all-party committee of the house interviews candidates for the job.

The Clerk and Clerks Assistant sit at a table that is located in front of the Speaker's Chair. They provide procedural advice to the Speaker and to the members and are in charge of counting votes in the house and keeping track of time during debates. The Clerk is also responsible for compiling all official documents of the house – the Order Paper which is the schedule of house business, *Votes and Proceedings*, and other papers in the house.

In addition, the Clerk oversees the administrative management of the legislature with the final approval resting with the Speaker. This includes all matters relating to the Office of the Assembly. In addition, all members of provincial parliament are sworn in by the Clerk.

Included within the Clerk's office are committee clerks, who give support to the administration of the legislature's committees.

The Clerk's Office is also responsible for co-ordinating the **Journals**, which include such materials as the *Journals of the Assembly*, the *Orders and Notices*, the *Votes and Proceedings* which provide information about house matters to members, staff and the public.





# The Sergeant at Arms

Sitting near the Chamber's main entrance is the **Sergeant at Arms** who is responsible for security in the House and for protecting the Mace. This traditional parliamentary position dates back over 500 years to its medieval roots in England and France.

The position of Sergeant at Arms in England became one of a bodyguard to the King. The gentlemen under this title carried a decorated battle-mace as a weapon and as a badge of this particular office. At first, their duties required military participation but their duties were soon changed to that of a bodyguard. From this time, the only weapons they were allowed to carry were clubs or maces which were not as dangerous as previous weapons. In the 14th century, many towns throughout the kingdom would appoint a *City Sergeant* to undertake police and administrative duties.

There has also been some suggestion, which dates back to about 1391, that the Sergeant at Arms was the protector of the Speaker against the members in the house during times of violent disagreement.

There may be some disagreement about the exact origins of this position, but the purpose of the Sergeant at Arms' presence in the house has never been doubted – to maintain the law and order of the house and carry out functions connected with the Speaker's Office.

Today in our legislature, the Sergeant at Arms is the custodian of the Mace which symbolizes the power and role of the Speaker in the house. The Sergeant at Arms carries out the authority of the Speaker, serves the Speaker's **Warrants** which require the attendance of witnesses before legislative committees, leads the procession through the hallways into the house, bringing the mace in the Chamber.

Part of the official uniform of the Sergeant at Arms is the sword, which is carried in a sheath at his side at all times when he is in official uniform. The sword which is in use today was made by Wilkinson Sword Canada, presented to the Ontario Legislature during the 1984 historical celebrations. This sword is a symbol of justice, authority, honour and tradition.

The office of the Sergeant at Arms is also responsible for the legislative attendants and legislative pages in the house. The legislative attendants oversee the pages in the House and take care of the day-to-day operations of the Chamber.





# Leading the province— the Premier and the Executive Council

The decision-making power in the Legislative Assembly is exercised by the Executive Council which is made up of the Premier and the Cabinet. The Executive Council is at the centre of the legislative process in the province and is responsible for the administration of our laws. The Premier is the president of the Executive Council.

The Premier is the chief advisor to the Lieutenant Governor, the official head of the provincial government. The people of the province do not elect the Premier. Leaders of political parties are elected by party members. After an election, the leader of the party with the greatest number of elected candidates heads the Ontario government as Premier.

The Premier chooses the ministers who will be part of the Executive Council. It is the Premier's right to convene a new parliament and recommend dissolution to the Lieutenant Governor. The Executive Council presents a legislative program for the approval and support of the majority of the legislature.

One of the first things a premier does after a general election is to assign departmental and other responsibilities to ministers. The Premier also has the right to change and dismiss ministers and appoint deputy ministers. With the recommendation of the Government Agencies Committee, the Premier also appoints the heads of provincial agencies.

In the Executive Council or Cabinet, solidarity is extremely important. All cabinet members have a code of honour to discuss nothing outside of Cabinet. It is equally important that the Cabinet seeks unanimous agreement. As ministers, they have full control over their ministries.





# The roles of an MPP

When MPPs are in the house, they debate and vote on all aspects of house business such as bills, private member's business, the Budget and the Throne Debate. Some members also have specific duties. Some are **cabinet ministers** or part of the **shadow cabinet**, others may be **House Leaders** or **Party Whips.** The largest percentage of members are referred to as backbenchers. These are private members who are not ministers or parliamentary assistants. Government backbenchers occupy the back benches or seats behind ministers and parliamentary assistants while opposition backbenchers sit behind opposition leaders. Backbenchers participate in debates and votes in the house. Their principal roles may include participation in committees and constituency work.

Backbench members from the government side of the House may be given the opportunity to act as **parliamentary assistants** to a minister in the cabinet. Being a parliamentary assistant, in some cases, may lead to a future position in cabinet. This position also provides opportunities to members who were not appointed to cabinet. Parliamentary assistants help ministers with their workload and responsibilities of parliamentary assistants may vary.

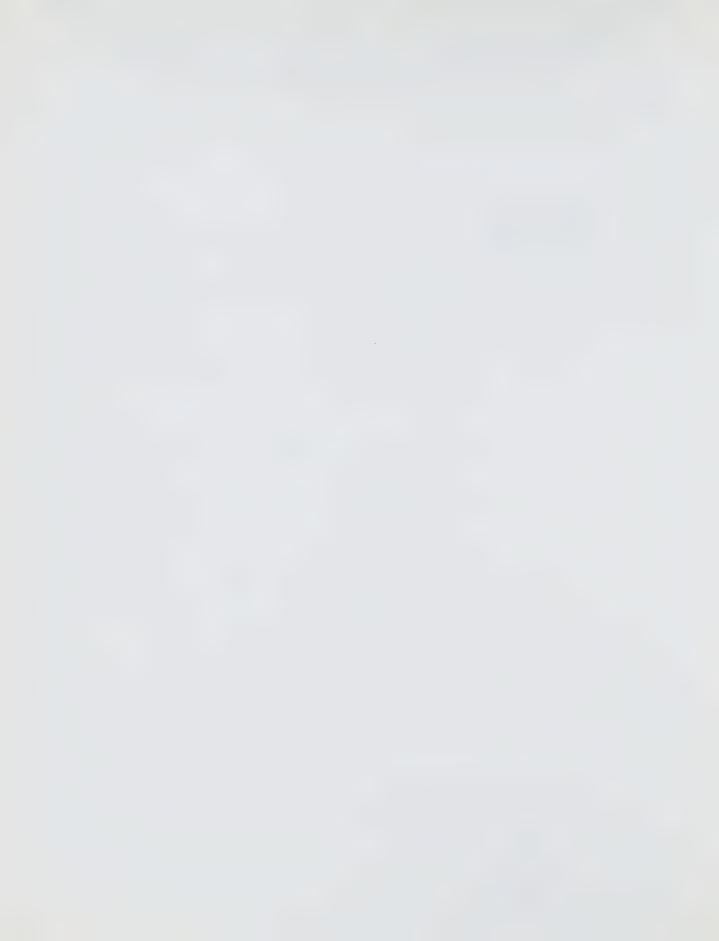
Like the ministers, the Premier appoints, transfers and dismisses parliamentary assistants. These positions are often given out during times of cabinet shuffles. Although parliamentary assistants do not attend cabinet meetings or cabinet committee meetings, they may perform some ministerial duties.

## The Opposition and the Shadow Cabinet

The opposition parties in parliament serve to keep the government of the day accountable. The role of the opposition is to study and debate legislation and government spending. Within the opposition is what is known as the shadow cabinet. The leaders of opposition parties appoint members to serve as critics for specific ministries and ministers. As critics, the shadow cabinet scrutinizes the activities and policies of the ministries.

For more information on specific roles, please refer to the information under the heading *Party Organization in the Legislature* in the section *Democracy at Work*.





# Representing the people Our Members of Provincial Parliament

MPP stands for Member of Provincial Parliament. These are our parliamentary representatives elected to the legislature to govern the province on our behalf. Each MPP represents the concerns of all his or her constituents. It is the principal duty of an MPP to listen to the concerns of these constituents. They also act as our liaison for public services and programs provided by government. Our MPPs also keep us up-to-date on their work at Queen's Park. Constituency matters can occupy a large part of an MPP's time.

When they are not working in their constituencies, they are at Queen's Park proposing, debating and voting on legislative matters. MPPs ask the government questions and make suggestions in the governing of Ontario.

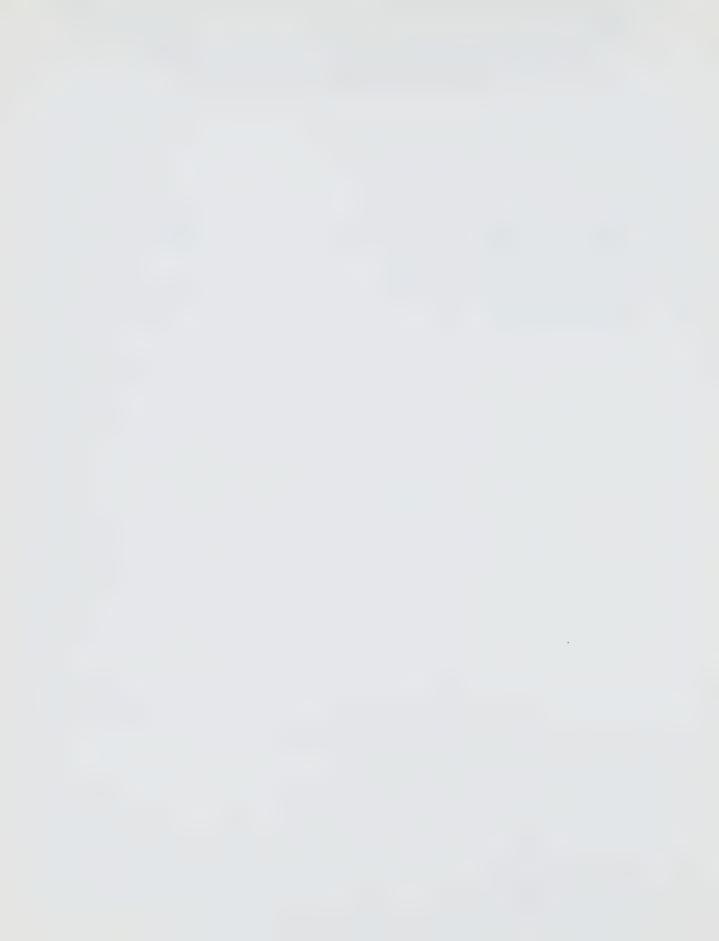
An MPP's time may be spent attending caucus and committee meetings, participating in various debates and working on matters involving his or her constituency.

## **Becoming an MPP**

During an election, candidates announce their ideas and what policies they would propose if elected, seeking as many votes as possible. The same requirements for voters applies to candidates: minimum age of 18 years, Canadian citizenship and residence in Ontario for the six months preceding the election. To become a candidate for a particular political party, you must be nominated by the party and hand in your nomination paper to Elections Ontario. Other candidates, however, might not run for a particular political party, but seek election as independents.

Some candidates have experience in municipal government, some have helped others in running for office. It should be noted that familiarity with Queen's Park is not a necessary prerequisite for running, although familiarity with a political party is extremely important.





# inside

# did know...

...that there are colourful faces carved in plaster inside the Chamber? These faces were carved there by artists who carved the woodwork but were not allowed to sign their names. They carved these faces to remind people that they too were involved in the woodwork of the Chamber.

t the heart of the Legislative Building is
the Chamber, where 130 elected members of Provincial Parliament
discuss and make decisions affecting

# inside the inser

the lives of all Ontario residents. This section introduces you to the Chamber and the traditions and rules that guide the provincial parliament. Included in this section is a poster which will tell you



about the special features of the
Chamber and show you where you can
find some key players.



# In **Inside the Chamber** you will find:

- Inside the Chamber
- The mace
- Hansard
- Legislative Pages
- Chamber poster
- Other

#### inside the chamber

## Inside the Chamber

The Legislative Chamber is the centrepiece of the parliamentary process. It provides the opposition with the opportunity to present itself as an alternate government. It is here that government policies and administration can be looked at by the public. Through the MPPs the Chamber provides a forum for the expression of the concerns of individuals, regions and organized groups. The Chamber is the forum of debate that informs MPPs and thereby the population of Ontario about public policy.

The Legislative Chamber looks very much like it did back in 1893, when the building at Queen's Park opened. This is the second home of the Ontario Legislative Assembly since Confederation in 1867. The government met in several locations throughout Toronto from the 1790s until the opening of this building. Major renovations have been made in the Chamber over the years. For example, in 1986 the Chamber had to be renovated to accommodate televised proceedings and simultaneous interpretation. In 1987 the number of seats in the house increased to 130 from 125.

The central role in the Chamber is that of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. The Speaker makes sure that the rules of the house are followed and that the business of parliament is carried out in an orderly manner. The Speaker sits between government and opposition members in a chair that is on a raised platform at the end of the Chamber. To the right of the Speaker sit government members. To the left of the Speaker are members of the opposition. Seats for independent members may be located in other areas of the house floor.

Sitting in the centre aisle near the Chamber's main entrance is the Sergeant at Arms. This person is responsible for security in the house and protecting the Mace, a ceremonial symbol representing the power and role of the Speaker.

In front of the Speaker's Chair is a table where the Clerk and Clerks Assistant sit. They provide procedural advice to the Speaker and to the members. They record all the legislative business and votes in the house. They also look after all official documents. Just beyond them is a smaller table where Hansard reporters sit. Hansard is the official record of everything said in the house.

There are certain rules which must be upheld while members are in the Chamber. The Standing Orders are these rules which the MPPs themselves have adopted for the administration of the house. They ensure that the business of the house is conducted in an orderly manner, that all MPPs have the chance to participate and debate an issue, and that MPPs conduct themselves properly at all times.





#### inside the chamber

### The

The presence of the mace in the House symbolizes the authority given to the Speaker to oversee the Legislature and the process of creating new laws in Ontario. Each day the house is in session, the Sergeant at Arms leads the procession into the Chamber. Over his right shoulder he carries the mace, which is brought to the Clerk's table and placed on a cushion. The crown of the mace always faces the government, while the opposite end or the "club" faces the opposition. Members are not allowed to pass between the Speaker and the mace during the session. The mace is removed at the end of each day's sitting. It is placed under the Clerk's table when the house meets in Committee of the Whole House. Business of the house cannot be conducted unless the mace is in the Chamber.

The origins of the word mace date back to medieval times when bishops who went to war were not allowed to carry swords by **canonical law.** Instead, they carried a *massue* or *masse* for use as weapons. The term for mace has origins in France and was used to describe a type of wooden club with iron tips or spikes. With technical advances in weaponry, the use of the mace went from being a weapon to that of an object which signified rank. Later evolution saw it become a ceremonial item. During the 12th century in England, the mace was carried by attendants to the King to signify domestic security. Those who carried the mace were bodyguards to the King, a position which was an early form of the Sergeant at Arms. With the passage of time, more decorated maces were bestowed on municipalities which had shown particular loyalty to the monarch.

The use of the mace in parliament began in the mid-14th century. It was noted during this time that members of the house disliked its presence as a trespass on their rights, as the Sergeant at Arms had the right to use it on the authority of the Speaker to maintain order in the Chamber. The connection to royal authority has given way in modern times to the symbolism of the Speaker's power in the house.

Over the past 200 years, there have been three maces used during meetings of Ontario's parliaments. The first was a simple object made of soft wood, gilded and painted red in parts. It was used in 1792 when the first legislature of the province of Upper Canada convened in Newark (present day Niagaraon-the-Lake). During the War of 1812, this mace was stolen by Americans and taken to Washington. It would not be returned to Ontario until 1934 as a



### The make

gesture of goodwill from American President Franklin D. Roosevelt. It is now on display in the Legislative Building at Queen's Park.

In 1815, a new mace was obtained for a cost of \$500. This new mace was much like the one used by the British House of Commons. It was five feet long, silver, gilded and elaborately decorated. In 1849, it was stolen during a mob attack on the parliament meeting house in Montreal. Although it was quickly rescued and returned, it was almost destroyed by fire twice before it eventually was taken to Ottawa where it would be used in the House of Commons from 1867 onwards. When fire destroyed much of the original Parliament Buildings in Ottawa in 1916, the second mace melted during the blaze.

When Ontario became an official province under Confederation, the first premier of the new province, John Sandfield Macdonald, commissioned the design for a new provincial mace. Although not as highly decorated as the second mace, it is made of copper and richly gilded (gold plated). This mace was crafted in Ottawa at a cost of \$200, and is the one in use today.

#### inside the chamber

#### Hansard

Hansard is the official verbatim report of the debates in the House. It is named after the family that began the tradition in the House of Commons at Westminster during the 19th century. The printing firm of Luke Hansard and his son, Thomas, began printing Britain's parliamentary proceedings in 1774. In 1811, Thomas Hansard became the first person officially authorized to publish reports of debates in the British Parliament. Before this time, note-taking in the galleries was forbidden. Anyone who printed a report of the debates risked imprisonment. This secrecy was intended to protect members from any attempt by the monarch to reduce their privileges and powers. One member who had his own speeches published was thrown in the Tower of London and all copies of the book were confiscated and burned.

It should be pointed out, however, that the first records of debates were published in 1810 by William Cobbett, a 19th century reformer in England. Some have suggested that Hansard should really be called Cobbett. The word *Hansard* did indeed disappear in the House of Commons for a few years beginning in 1909. Staff reporters hired by the House of Commons disliked the poor quality of work done by the Hansard family. Although the reports continued to be known as Hansard, these editors refused to have their efforts tainted by using the word *Hansard*. As a result, Westminster reports were renamed *Official Report*. The name *Hansard* was reinstated in 1943.

Hansard officially began in Ontario in 1944. These first Hansard reports covered the first session of the 21st parliament and were prepared by shorthand writers and typewritten. Onion-skin carbon copies were made for distribution only to the Premier, each cabinet minister and for the party leaders. Previous to these official reports of debates there were some legislature records and parliamentary events reported through the newspapers.

After complaints about the inadequacy of onion-skin copies, Hansard started distributing the records in copied form during 1945 and 1946. In 1957, shorthand reporting gave way to tape recording.

Today, Hansard provides electronically printed or photocopied records of speeches and other proceedings in the legislature and all committees. The staff transcribes and edits the tapes. All sittings of the house and standing and select committees are covered. Reports are produced in English and French, depending on the language spoken during debates.



#### Hansard

An extensive recording system is linked to microphones at each member's desk. Remarks of various speakers are recorded.

Also, a staff of shorthand writers records interjections on the house floor. Tapes are transcribed by a team of word processing operators and are corrected and edited by groups of editors before final proofing and transmission to a commercial printer. A rough transcript of debates is produced within a few hours of proceedings. The printed report is available at Queen's Park and in the Publications Ontario bookstore shortly after 9 a.m. the next day. Video Hansard, which is taped proceedings of the house, began here in Ontario in 1986 and coincides with the televised service of Legislative debates operated by the Broadcast and Recording Service of the Ontario legislature. It is available on cable TV to households across the province. Part of this system also involves a link between computers and the rebroadcasting of the debates.

#### inside the chamber

## Legislative pages

When you watch a sitting in the Chamber, you may notice some young boys and girls who sit on the steps that lead to the Speaker's Chair. Called legislative pages, they act as messengers in the Legislative Chamber during the time debates are taking place. They are grade seven and eight students from all over the province who serve a term of duty of four to six weeks, while continuing their schooling at the Legislative Assembly.

The pages also meet with politicians and officials and learn how the parliament of the province works. During their time at the legislature, they also receive tutoring in French and math. In addition, they go to classes to learn more about the legislative process.

Student acceptance is based on marks at school as well as in extra-curricular activities. Because of a limited number of positions, there is usually a healthy competition for acceptance into the program.





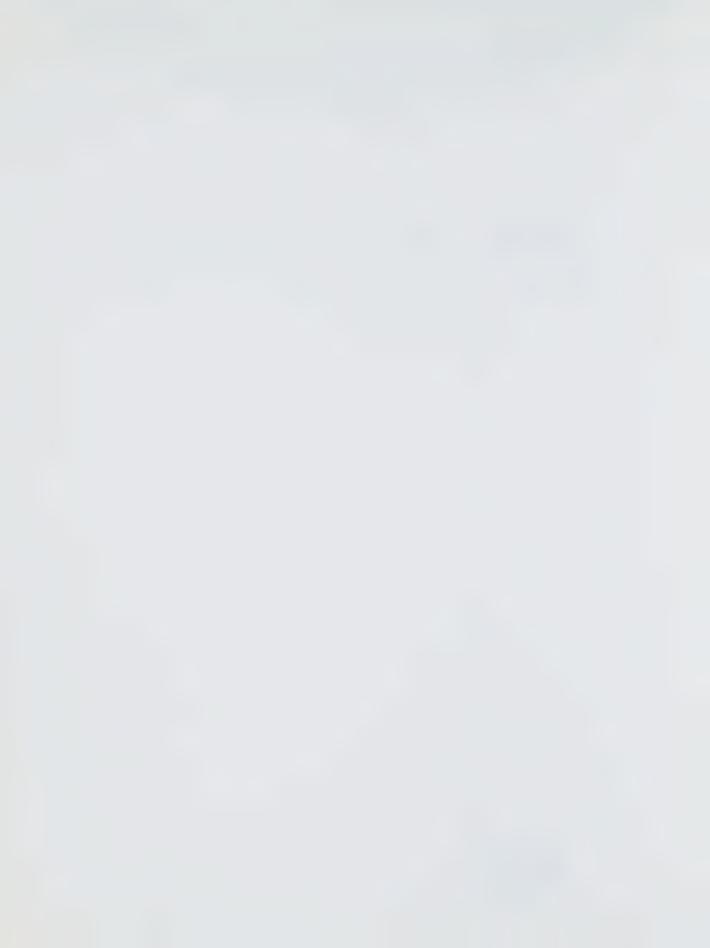
#### inside the chamber

# Language and the legislature

English and French are the official languages of the Ontario Legislative Assembly. Interpreters translate work from English to French or French to English making sure that all MPPs can participate fully in the business of the house. They also provide this service to some committee meetings.

In addition, sign-language interpreters are on hand for MPPs who are hearing impaired.





#### **INSIDE THE CHAMBER**

The ceiling of the Chamber was originally painted a brilliant turquoise colour with omate frescoes of maple leaves ornamenting the sections of the ceiling. This ceiling was because of members complaints about a loud . lowered by several inches and a layer of It is this layer of fabric which forms the

quality, more light had to be created in the Chamber. A special lighting system uses the 10 new chandeliers were added above the

These four brass chandeliers each weigh 408 kilograms and are the same age as the Building, Originally, they were made up of lit using 52 light bulbs.

The introduction of an in-house television system was one of the major changes in the 1986. Five cameras were discreetly placed in the Chamber.

The Speaker's Gallery is reserved for important visitors to the legislature from -

A carefully designed booth for three interpreters was constructed in the house . when simultaneous interpretation services were introduced in 1986.

which seat about 35 people each and are used by guests of the members.

The government traditionally sits to the right seats in the last election forms the government of Ontario and occupies these seats.

On top of the pillars supporting the various Press Gallery are the inscriptions which translate to: May Peace be with You; Let bim who deserves it, bear the prize; Dare to be Wise, By Teaching We Learn; and Peace in War. Under the Speaker's Gallery are the inscriptions: Boldly and Rightly; By Courage not by Craft: Hear the Other Side, and Let us be Viewed by Our Actions.

The Premier is the leader of the party which won the most seats in the last election. You'll find the Premier sitting in the front row.

left of the Speaker and is the party that has sit. Hansard is the verbatim transcript of won the second largest number of seats in discussions in the Chamber. the house. On this same side you will see members of other opposition parties.

The official opposition traditionally sits to the The smaller table is where Hansard reporters

Visitors who watch the legislature in session may sit in one of the four galleries in the the Press Gallery where all major media outlets such as newspapers, radio and television in Ontario are represented. The doorways at either end lead to offices

The Royal Coat of Arms or British Royal Standard, is carved directly above the Speaker's Chair from one solid piece of mahogany imported from Central America. This carving consists of a lion, the crown and the unicorn supporting the Royal Standard. In the upper left and lower right hand corners there are three lions standing one single lion, the emblem of Scotland. The lower left hand corner has a woman and a

The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario sits here on this dais, or raised within the Chamber and makes sure the rules of the house are followed. The person who is

Deputy Ministers, members' assistants and are the only visitors to the Chamber who may take notes during the sitting.

Pages sit around the Speaker's Chair. They are Chamber. They bring members messages and in session. Pages work here at the legislature for four to six weeks at a time, learning how

In front of the Speaker's Chair is a table which is occupied by the Clerk and the Clerks Assistant. The Clerk provides Street in the 1870s.

authority, is a golden crowned staff that sits be obstructed. No one is allowed to walk



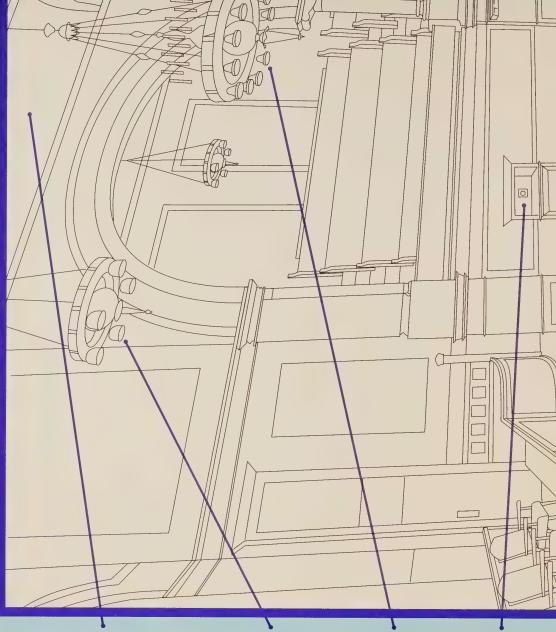
The ceiling of the Chamber was originally painted a brilliant turquoise colour with ornate frescoes of maple leaves ornamenting the sections of the ceiling. This ceiling was covered over at the turn of the 20th century because of members complaints about a loud echo. To dampen the echo, the ceiling was lowered by several inches and a layer of horse hair was placed above a layer of fabric. It is this layer of fabric which forms the "ceiling" of the Chamber today.

To meet the need for broadcast and viewer quality, more light had to be created in the Chamber. A special lighting system uses the ceiling of the Chamber as a reflector. In 1986, 10 new chandeliers were added above the galleries to provide more light.

These four brass chandeliers each weigh 408 kilograms and are the same age as the Building. Originally, they were made up of 24 electric and 24 gas lights. Today they are lit using 52 light bulbs.

The introduction of an in-house television system was one of the major changes in the legislature. Televised proceedings began in 1986. Five cameras were discreetly placed in

the Chamber.



Demo

# did know...

...that the word

democracy comes from

the Greek words, demos

meaning people and

kratia, meaning rule?

(di-mäk/r9-se)



his section contains the bulk of information needed to understand the parliamentary process. **Democracy at Work** is divided into two components. The first component will tell you about the structure and workings of our parliament.

# Democracy Work



The second component is made up of information about the day-to-day business of the legislature and how you as a citizen can have your say.

# Democracy Work

#### In **Part I** you will find:

- The Structure of our Government
- The Office of the Legislative Assembly
- Electing our Representatives
- Our Electoral System
- The History of Voting in Ontario
- Voting in a Political Election
- Political Parties
- Forming the Government
- other

#### diseasorracy of work

#### The structure of our government

Our system of government is a combination of British and American systems. This federal system unites the country but also provides local governments with the ability to maintain control over areas that affect them. Under the BNA Act, the federal and provincial governments were given different responsibilities. For example, the federal government has responsibility for foreign policy, defence, national economic policy and immigration. The provincial government is responsible for areas that directly concern its residents. Examples include education, health care, housing and highways. The third level of government is the municipal government which does not have direct constitutional powers. The municipal governments exercise powers delegated to them by the provincial government. Examples of these include local streets and transportation services, building regulations, recreation facilities, garbage and sewage treatment.

There are other differences in the structure of the federal and provincial governments. The federal government in Ottawa has a **bicameral** system which is made up of an upper house, called the Senate and a lower house, called the House of Commons. The Senate introduces legislation that is not of monetary nature and has the right to reject or amend legislation passed by the House of Commons.

The House of Commons is made up of elected members of parliament and is responsible for the legislation that concerns Canadians.

The provincial government does not have an upper house or a senate and is therefore, unicameral. Ontario was in fact, the first province to have a unicameral parliament since Confederation. Other provinces continued to have an upper house. These provinces' upper houses were abolished in different times: Manitoba in 1876, New Brunswick in 1892, Prince Edward Island in 1893, Nova Scotia in 1928 and Quebec in 1968.

Representatives of Ontario's parliament are referred to as **Members of Provincial Parliament,** or **MPPs.** In some provinces these representatives are called Members of the Legislative Assembly, or MLAs. Parliamentary representatives in Quebec are called Members of the National Assembly or, MNAs.





#### diamocracy of work

# The provincial government— separation of powers

There are three branches of the provincial government. These branches are: the legislative branch, composed of elected representatives who make laws; the executive branch which administer laws; and the **judiciary**, which interprets and enforces the law. The executive branch administers existing laws and through the cabinet ministers, proposes new laws. The legislative branch approves new laws by voting on them while the judiciary applies these laws through the court system. The judiciary is composed of the courts, judges and chief justices. Judges are mediators and arbitrators and are guided by conscience, **precedent** and knowledge of the law. They are not held back by the power and influence of the legislative and executive branches to perform their responsibilities. The BNA Act provided the provincial legislature with jurisdiction over the administration of justice in the province and the judiciary protects the rights of citizens from both the government and fellow citizens.



#### democracy at work

#### The office of the Legislative Assembly

While MPPs carry out their parliamentary duties, the Office of the Legislative Assembly literally keeps the Assembly running. This office is the administrative arm of the Ontario Legislative Assembly and was established in 1974 to provide non-partisan service not only to the members but to the public as well.

The head of the Office of the Legislative Assembly is the Speaker, the senior presiding officer of the Assembly. The Speaker maintains order in the Chamber and ensures that the rules of the house are respected. In addition, the Speaker is in charge of the operations and activities of the Legislative Building, its surrounding grounds and part of the nearby Whitney Block.

The Clerk is the administrator of the Office of the Legislative Assembly. The Clerk's responsibilities include advising the Speaker and members of the legislature on questions of procedure and interpretation of rules and practices of the House. The Committees branch of the Clerk's office provides the procedural and administrative support for all standing, select and special committees of the legislature. The Journals branch coordinates the publication of all house documents including the *Votes and Proceedings* and the *Orders and Notices Paper*. There is a Clerk of Committees and a Clerk of Journals who both offer advice and assistance on the drafting of motions and all other aspects of parliamentary procedure.

The Clerk's office is also responsible for translation and interpretation services for the Office of the Assembly, the Hansard Reporting Service and the Broadcast and Recording Service. The Hansard Reporting service provides the official published record of house proceedings while the Broadcast and Recording Service provides the visual proceedings of the house and some committees. Broadcast and Recording, in addition, is responsible for the electronic recording of debates.

The Legislative Library provides an important source of research and information for members of the Assembly. It provides information, reference and research services to MPPs, all staff of the Legislative Assembly, caucus staff for the three parties, and members of the Legislative Press Gallery. The Library's extensive collection includes social science and legal materials, Canadian and American government publications and major daily and weekly Ontario newspapers. The library also provides MPPs with press clippings from selected newspapers.



#### The office of the Legislative Assembly

The Legislative Research Service is a branch of the library which provides research assistance to members and committees on request. Objective and non-partisan analytical studies are done by research officers with general and specialized expertise in the social sciences, business, public adminstration, law and humanities.

The Assembly Services division administers the accommodation and building services for the Legislative Assembly. This division is in charge of security, day-to-day maintenance and the restoration and renovation of the Legislative Building. Food Services operates the legislative dining room and cafeteria for MPPs, staff and visitors.

The Sergeant at Arms is responsible for security and the legislative attendants.

As part of this division, the Interparliamentary and Public Relations branch conducts individual and group tours of the building. Information officers explain the history of the Building and discuss the workings of Ontario's parliamentary system and answer your questions. Educational tours and information services are available in both French and English. This branch also coordinates the exhibits throughout the Legislative Building. During sessions, the branch processes applications for passes to the public galleries. A general inquiry service is located at the main entrance to the Building where information on attractions in Toronto and Ontario is also available.

Interparliamentary and Public Relations also provides assistance to the Speaker and MPPs travelling outside Queen's Park as delegates of the Assembly. Programs are prepared for special guests and delegations visiting the Assembly from other provinces or countries.

The Office of the Assembly has an Office of the Controller which handles the administration of finances, human resources, computer and purchasing services. The Controller's Office through the Human Resources branch also administers student co - op programs and the Ontario Legislature Internship Programme.

All of these offices serve MPPs of all political parties, keep the Legislative Assembly running and operating smoothly and provide the public with non-partisan and efficient services.

#### democracy at work

## Electing our representatives

We choose our representatives through an election. An election is the process by which citizens choose representatives to govern on their behalf. The right to elect parliamentary representatives comes from Britain and dates back to the 13th century when local village leaders were called to parliament. Voting rights, however, extended only to middle and working classes in the 19th and 20th centuries in Britain.

In Ontario, a general election must be held at least every five years. There is no limit to the number of times a person may be elected to the provincial parliament if that individual continues to run and continues to have the support of the people in their **constituency.** Other elections called **by-elections** may be held between general elections to replace members who have died or have resigned from the Legislative Assembly.

#### When is an election called?

A provincial parliament may last up to five years. However, the Premier can ask the Lieutenant Governor to dissolve the legislature and call an election at any time.

After the Lieutenant Governor calls an election, an official referred to as the Chief Election Officer enters the picture. The Chief Election Officer prepares documents called the **Writs of Election**, which begins the election process. The Writs of Election are sent to returning officers. Each of these officers is responsible for the administration of the election in an electoral district, also called **ridings** or **constituencies**.

#### **Elections Ontario**

In this province, elections are administered by the Chief Election Officer who must be ready for an election at any time. **Elections Ontario**, under the direction of the Chief Election Officer, makes sure that voting takes place under fair conditions and that the process of updating the voters list is carried out properly. A set of requirements under the Election Act governs the steps that must take place during an election to make sure that our representatives are fairly elected.



### **Electing our** representatives

#### **Election money matters**

During an election, political parties spend money on their campaign. They also accept contributions of money from private companies, individuals and organizations in Ontario. The Election Finances Reform Act in 1975 created regulations for election financing, limiting the contributions a party can accept and how much a party can spend on its campaign.

Political parties and candidates in Ontario must be registered with the Commission on Election Finances, an independent body reporting to the Legislative Assembly. This commission enforces limitations set by the Election Finances Act on contributions to political parties. Along with Elections Ontario, this commission ensures that elections in our province are conducted fairly. For more information about political contributions and election finances, please contact the Commission on Election Finances.

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# Our electoral system

There is a long list of measures that regulate elections in Ontario. We now think of elections as taking place on a certain day and that each is organized fairly. However, it wasn't always this way.

Back in the 1800s, elections in the province used to be more like travelling road shows, often dragging on for weeks at a time. Voters were often subjected to bullies who were eager to enforce their opinions. As the parliamentary system, and society for that matter, became more and more organized and regulated, two very important measures regulating elections were introduced. One was the introduction of the single, simultaneous election day in 1871. The other was the adoption of the secret ballot in 1874.

Today, when you vote, there is a voting screen and your ballot is folded when you put it in the ballot box. So when you select the candidate you wish to vote for, no one sees it or knows how you voted.

MPPs are elected from 130 electoral boundaries or districts throughout the province. These electoral districts are sometimes called ridings or **constituencies**. They are defined by population and rural or urban location.

Every 10 years, a body called the Electoral Boundaries Commission is 'established to make recommendations to the Ontario Legislature to determine if more seats should be added to the Legislative Assembly or if riding boundaries should be changed. This body is completely independent from the government so that constituencies can be divided objectively.

This wasn't always the case. Prior to 1962, it was general practice throughout Canada for provincial cabinets to propose changes in constituency boundaries. This led to an undemocratic practice called **gerrymandering** where the party in power drew the electoral boundaries to its advantage. In 1962, the first Redistribution Commission was introduced in Ontario to ensure objectivity in changes made to electoral boundaries.

#### The history of voting in Ontario

All citizens in the province did not always have the right to vote. In fact prior to 1888, less than 13 per cent of the men and only the small number of women who owned land in Ontario had the right to vote. This was due to strict property laws inherited from the British allowing only landlords or the wealthy to vote.



# Our electoral system

In 1888 Premier Oliver Mowat recognized how unfavourable these laws were to the population of Ontario. Under Mowat, the provincial government instituted what is called **full manhood suffrage** which gave the vote to all male citizens over the age of 21. However, women were still not given the vote until 1917, 29 years later. In 1919, women were given the right to run for office. It would be 24 years later, in 1943, that Agnes Macphail and Margaret Luckok became the first women to be elected to the Ontario Legislature.

It would be 37 years after women were granted the vote, in 1954, before Ontario's First Peoples were finally given the vote. In 1971, the voting age in Ontario was reduced to 18 years of age from 21 giving more people in the province the right to vote.

#### democracy at work

#### Voting in a provincial election

#### Who can vote

If you are at least 18 years of age, a Canadian citizen and have resided in Ontario for the six months preceding election day, then you are eligible to vote in an election. In Ontario we have a democratic system that allows all citizens who meet these requirements to exercise their right to vote. Electoral systems are different in other countries. Some have a system of compulsory voting where fines may result if you do not vote.

#### How to vote

Four weeks before the election date, a preliminary list of eligible voters in all the ridings is compiled by **enumeration.** Officials from Elections Ontario, called enumerators, go door to door to create the voter's list. Your name should appear on a list of electors in your polling division and if it does, you will receive the **notice of enumeration** card in the mail. It is your responsibility to ensure your name appears on the voter's list. If your name does not appear, you must apply for a Certificate to Vote. You can do this by contacting the returning officer in the Elections Ontario office for your electoral district. An application for a Certificate to Vote may be made up to, and including, the day before election day.

Polls are open from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on election day. Arrangements can be made to vote in advance if you are unable to do so on election day. For more detailed information about advance polls, please contact your local Elections Ontario office. Voters select the candidate they wish to vote for by making a mark in the circle beside that person's name on the ballot. The deputy returning officer places the ballot in the box in front of you. The ballots are counted when the polls close.

#### Choosing who to vote for

We vote for candidates who we think will improve our community or will do something about an issue that is very important to us. There are many ways that can help you make a decision about who to vote for. During the election process many candidates go door to door. This gives you an opportunity to ask them questions about their position on issues that may affect you, your family and your community.



#### Voting in a provincial election

If your candidate has been an MPP, you may want to see how they performed during some important debates by reading past issues of Hansard, the official verbatim record of everything said in the House. Back issues of Hansard can be obtained from libraries, Publications Ontario, or by calling Hansard Reporting at Queen's Park. You can also call candidates' campaign headquarters to obtain more information about their experience and their opinions on certain issues and policies. You might also want to attend an all-candidates meeting in your constituency which will give you a better idea where the candidates stand on certain issues.

#### democracy at work

#### Forming the government

In Canada and all the provinces, we have what is called the **first past the post** system or the plurality system. This means that the candidate who wins the most votes in each constituency is the winner, regardless if this is less than 50 per cent of the votes cast. After an election, the party with the greatest number of elected members is asked, by the Lieutenant Governor, to form the next government. The party with the second largest number of elected members becomes the Official Opposition. The leader of the governing party, known as the Premier, selects elected members for his Cabinet. Each is assigned a particular responsibility or ministry and collectively they establish government policy.

If the governing party holds at least half of the seats in the house, this is called a **majority government**. If it holds less than half, it is called a **minority government**. In a minority government situation, the government may have to compromise on certain platform issues and may rely on the support of the opposition parties to pass legislation. A minority government situation usually creates a conciliatory environment among parties and legislation may be carefully tailored to suit all parties.

When a vote on legislation is called, the government requires a majority vote of the members sitting in the house to have it pass. In some cases, if the government fails to get a majority, it may resign and ask the Lieutenant Governor to call an election. This tends to happen especially if the government is defeated on any piece of legislation that deals with money.

It is in a minority government situation that a **non-confidence** vote is most often called. This is when an opposition member may make a **motion** of non-confidence in the government. If the majority of the house agrees, the government is said to have lost the confidence of the Assembly. The government must then resign and call an election.





#### democracy at work

## Political parties

We don't all agree on certain issues that affect our communities. There may be one group that agrees on one thing and another group who all believe in something entirely different. A **political party** is a group of individuals who are united by their belief in some basic **ideologies.** 

Ideologies are a set of political and economic principles and beliefs about society. Some people have the same ideas and beliefs about issues that affect our society and come together to form an organization that can perhaps influence or change some things in society. In many instances, these people come together to become part of a political party. These parties interact with communities, interest groups and individuals, advocating their viewpoints and platforms in the legislature.

#### **Political parties in Canada and Ontario**

Canada inherited a two-party system from Britain although this has evolved into a three-party system traditionally made up of the Liberal Party, the Progressive Conservative Party and the New Democratic Party. The organization of the current party system started about the mid-1870s. For example, the Liberals and the Conservatives set in place systems of salaried organizers or clerical staff to bring greater cohesion to the party. This was the beginning of the our modern party system.

Canada's current party system is not just made up of the three traditional parties. As was seen in the 1993 federal election, the emergence of other political parties challenged the Progressive Conservatives and the New Democrats. We now have five parties with seats in the House of Commons. In addition to the three traditional parties, there are the Reform Party and the Bloc Québécois. This development may or may not have an impact on our provincial legislature in future parliaments which, as of this writing, has representatives from the New Democrats, the Liberals and the Progressive Conservatives. There are, however, no less than five other registered political parties in our province, which may have an impact on the makeup of future provincial parliaments.

#### Party organization in the legislature

All MPPs meetings

All MPPs from each party meet regularly and are called a **caucus**. Caucus meetings are held in secret and members are expected to keep proceed-

## Political parties

ings to themselves. The government caucus holds meetings that likely discuss parliamentary strategy and policy. For the opposition caucus, these meetings are a chance to work out critical positions on government activity.

Each party has one member who is appointed **House Leader.** This person is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the party in the legislature. The House Leader for the governing party is always a member of the cabinet. The **Government House Leader** assists in managing the affairs of the legislature and is responsible for the daily order of house business.

The **Party Whip** assures the attendance of members for important votes and enforces party discipline. Whips also decide on the order of speakers in a debate.

All house leaders and whips meet weekly to plan the business of the legislature to determine which bills will be called for second or third readings, when and what committee reports will be debated and so forth. Every Thursday, the Government House Leader, after consulting with cabinet and the other house leaders, announces the schedule of business for the following week. This way opposition parties have time to prepare their scrutiny of government proposals. The house leaders encourage co-operation among the parties and a constant dialogue among all parties in the house.

Demo

#### What goes on at Queen's Park? Keeping up to date.

As citizens of this province, we have the right to know what goes on in the Chamber and at committee meetings taking place at the Legislative Building. We can keep up to date about what goes on at Queen's Park in many ways.

- If you are in the Metro Toronto area, visit the Building's public galleries to see what our elected representatives are doing.
- Watch the parliamentary proceedings and committee meetings on the parliamentary channel available through your local cable service.
- Read newspapers, magazines, watch the news on TV, listen to radio newscasts.
  - Read Hansard, the official verbatim record of house proceedings.
    - Call your MPP's office at Queen's Park or constituency office to see his or her stand on issues that affect you.
      - For more detailed information, contact the appropriate ministry office or Offices of the Legislative Assembly. These numbers can be found under the Government of Ontario listings in the blue pages of the telephone book.

# Democracy Work



# Democracy Work

#### In **Part II** you will find:

- The Business of the Legislature
- A Typical Day in the House
- The Legislative Process: the Making and Passing of Laws in Ontario
- Committees
- Having Your Say
- Other

#### diminocracy at work

#### The business of the legislature

#### When does the House sit?

The House must meet at least once a year. There are usually sittings in the spring from March to June and in the fall from September to December.

The legislature meets on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1:30 to 6 p.m. It also meets Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Committees may sit while the House is meeting, and may also sit other times throughout the year.

When the Legislative Assembly meets for parliamentary business, the proceedings in the Chamber are governed by a set of rules and guidelines called the **Standing Orders.** This is a detailed guideline about what takes place in Ontario's parliament. It contains rules by which the legislature regulates its own proceedings. These written directions also state the dates and times the House will meet. Members of Provincial Parliament may decide to add to these days and may pass a motion extending both the days and the times of sitting.

The basic principles of procedures in the Legislative Assembly are derived from British practice. These rules are needed to get a large number of vocal, ambitious and partisan individuals to co-operate in making decisions. One important rule is that all speeches must be directed to the Speaker, not to individual members, or to the house as a whole. This rule is designed to discourage personal attacks by members against each other. A member must not be referred to by name, but with reference to his or her constituency. Also, all language must be parliamentary.

The Standing Orders are published under the authority of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly in English and French. The operation of the Ontario Legislature must follow the rules set out in the Standing Orders. If something is not covered in the Standing Orders, then the Speaker will make a decision using **precedents**, practice and parliamentary authorities to make the decision.

#### The Speech from the Throne

(3)

When parliament opens a session, the government announces its program and policies in the **Speech from the Throne.** This speech is prepared by the government but is read by the Lieutenant Governor and states the gov-

## The business of the legislature

ernment's proposed agenda or policies. After the speech is read, the house debates the Speech. This debate lasts for at least eight days and is an opportunity for members to bring up any subject they wish.

#### **The Budget**

When the debate for the Speech from the Throne is completed, the government introduces the Budget. This budget is the government's estimates on how much their new programs will cost and where it will get the money to pay for them. The Minister of Finance presents the Budget and the debate on it is started by finance critics of the opposition parties. The days allotted for debate on the Budget may be scattered throughout a parliamentary session. Therefore, the Budget debate can last an entire session and may conclude in the final days of the session with remarks by leaders of the opposition and the Premier. Budgets are presented each year.

#### democracy of work

## A typical day in the house

Five minutes before the house meets each day, a chime and light system located throughout the Legislative Building calls the members to the Chamber. Each meeting begins with the entrance of the Speaker. This is formally called the **Speaker's Procession.** The Sergeant at Arms enters the Chamber in front of the Speaker carrying the mace, the symbol of the Speaker's authority. The Speaker is followed by the Clerk, Clerks Assistant and two pages. After they enter the Chamber, the mace is placed at the head of the Clerk's table and the Speaker then reads the Prayers.

Each meeting day a paper titled **Orders and Notices** is printed. The following outlines all of the business before the house. Each Thursday, the business of the house may be announced by the **Government House Leader.** 

The Business of the house takes the following order:

*Members' Statements* Three members from each party who are not ministers or party leaders, may make a statement on any topic for 90 seconds each.

**Statements by the Ministry and Responses** Ministers may make short statements about government policy, ministry programs, or some other action on which the House should be informed. Following the statement time, which cannot go beyond 20 minutes, there are responses from members of each opposition party who may comment up to a total of 5 minutes.

Oral Questions This is a highlight of the parliamentary day and lasts 60 minutes. Popularly known as Question Period, this is the time when opposition and government members ask questions about government activity. Question Period begins with two questions from the Leader of the Official Opposition followed by two questions from leaders of other opposition parties and additional or supplementary questions. After this, members of all parties can ask questions on a rotating basis, starting with the Official Opposition. Question Period is an important forum for backbenchers in the Legislature because it provides them with the opportunity to question the Premier and the Cabinet about their policies. Government backbenchers may be given the opportunity to ask questions of their own ministers.

During Question Period, members may question certain answers or remarks made. This is called **Points of Order.** The Speaker rules on these points, which are not debatable or subject to appeal. Points of Order are not confined to question period and are only raised during this time unless it is absolutely



## A typical day in the house

necessary. If, in the opinion the Speaker or a minister, a question requires a lengthy answer, the question may be asked as a written question.

**Routine Motions** Motions propose that the legislature take some action on parliamentary issues. It is at this point in the parliamentary day that technical and administrative motions are introduced.

**Petitions** At this point members can present **petitions** from the public addressed to the legislature. Presentation of petitions is limited to 15 minutes. Petitions may request that the government or legislature take some action or reverse its position on some question of public policy. Each petition is sent to the appropriate Ministry and is filed with the Clerk. The government is required to respond within eight sessional days. For more information on petitions, please refer to the section entitled *Having our Say*.

**Reports from Committees** Standing or select committees report on bills and issues of the day. These reports must be dealt with by the legislature immediately.

*Introduction of Bills* This is the last item considered during the Routine proceedings. At this point all public, private and private members' bills are introduced.

#### democracy at work

# The legislative process— the making and passing of laws in Ontario

Legislation is introduced into the house in the form of a bill. There are two types of bills: **Public Bills** and **Private Bills**. Public bills are introduced by cabinet ministers and usually affect the entire province. These bills are part of the government's legislative program. A private bill is normally introduced by the member whose riding the bill concerns. These bills usually affect a particular individual or corporation.

There is also a private members' bill which also deals with issues of public concern. It is introduced by an MPP, from any party, who is not in cabinet.

A bill goes through several stages before becoming law. The process starts with the sponsoring minister who presents a motion for the introduction and first reading of the bill and explains the bill's objectives. MPPs then decide on whether to accept the bill for future debate. If the decision is *yes*, the bill is assigned a number, printed and scheduled for second reading. Each member receives a copy of the bill. Second reading is usually scheduled for several days later to give MPPs time to study the proposed bill.

During second reading, MPPs discuss the principle of the bill and are allowed to speak only once during the debate. After the debate, the MPPs vote on whether to let the bill proceed to the next step which is usually the committee stage. In some cases, a bill may move directly to third reading.

Bills often go to a standing or select committee to be studied in detail. Each section of the bill is discussed and a vote is taken on each section. For more information on the committee process, please see the detailed section entitled *Committees*.

Depending on the bill, the committee stage may last anywhere from a few days to several months. After the bill has been thoroughly examined, the committee will report to the house. The bill may be moved to the **Committee of the Whole House** or directly into final debate. After a bill is given a third reading, the Speaker calls for a final vote to be taken. The bill then goes to the Lieutenant Governor for **Royal Assent.** The procedure is called Royal Assent because the Lieutenant Governor is agreeing to the bill on behalf of the Queen. Only after assent do most bills become an act, or statute, of the Legislature. In other words, the bill now becomes law.

A law however, does not always come into effect with Royal Assent. In some cases, the law specifies another date when it will come into effect. In



# The legislative process— the making and passing of laws in Ontario

others, it states that the effective date will be decided later by the Cabinet. When a date is chosen, it must be approved by the Lieutenant Governor and fixed by **proclamation.** There are some laws that are never proclaimed and occasionally, only part of a law is proclaimed. These unproclaimed laws or parts of laws never take effect.

Usually, bills follow this process in becoming law. Other times, opposition members may also delay the passing of a bill to oppose government programs. One common tactic is called a **filibuster** in which opposition members use long speeches and comments to delay the passage of a bill. One member once tied up the legislature for an entire month! Filibustering, however, is most effective when a bill must be passed before a specific date or during the last day of a session. This may, in some cases, block the passage of a bill.

#### democracy of work

#### Committees

Although most work is done inside the Chamber, the Ontario Legislature delegates a great deal of its work to **committees.** There are three types of committees: standing, select, and Committee of the Whole House. The Standing Orders allows for a maximum of 11 members each for standing and select committees. Each consist of members from all parties with representation reflecting the current makeup of the legislature. For example, more seats would be provided to the governing party if it has a majority, followed by the Official Opposition and other parties. Committee of the Whole House includes all members of the legislature and meets in the Chamber. All members participate and, during this time, the house is not considered to be in session. The Speaker vacates his chair and the Deputy Speaker takes over as chair of the committee.

Standing committees must be formed for every parliament as provided in the Standing Orders. There are 11 standing committees dealing with ongoing areas of legislative activity from justice to finances to social development.

Select committees are set up specifically to study certain bills or issues. In some cases, these committees must examine the material by a specific date and then report the conclusions to the Legislature. Once this has been done, the committee is dissolved.

Select and standing committees generally conduct public hearings on bills so private citizens, organizations and experts can offer their views. All committee meetings are open to the public unless it has been labelled *in camera* or *closed session*. Closed sessions may be called if the matter under discussion is of a sensitive nature. For example, a key witness may want to avoid publicity or the committee may wish to protect the identity of a witness.

Each committee is presided over by a chair, who relies on the committee clerk for procedural advice. The chair must remain non-partisan and abide by the Standing Orders in making decisions.

Notification of committee meetings is usually given two weeks or more ahead. Advertising in local newspapers, the legislative broadcast system and other notices invite interested individuals and organizations to submit briefs or make oral presentations on the subject matter. Using a number of criteria, invitations to speak to the committee are granted after these submissions are received and reviewed.



Following conclusion of certain matters of business, committees report back to the house at a later date. Committee of the Whole House may then be called to consider the committee's report and allow members the chance to make any further comments on the bill.



#### democracy at work

#### Having your say

**Petitioning the legislature** A **petition** is addressed to the Legislative Assembly or parliament of Ontario. It requests parliament to take some action or reverse its position on an issue of public policy. If you wanted to change something in your community, for example, you could, in some cases, petition the provincial government to make this change.

A petition is a document which addresses an issue that concerns a group of citizens and asks the legislature to make a change. To show that the change you propose is also supported by many citizens in the community, a number of signatures are added to the bottom of a petition.

After you have collected the signatures, you can ask your MPP to present it to the House. You can petition the provincial government by addressing an issue that the Legislative Assembly can do something about. For instance, the provincial government cannot do anything about stopping a war in another country, or getting rid of a federal sales tax. However, if you want to change school courses, for example, or if you're concerned about transportation problems in your community, then you can petition the Legislative Assembly. Although you can petition the government for many things, you cannot petition the government to spend any tax dollars.

If you are not sure if your petition should be sent to the provincial government, call your MPP's office.

Petitions should be clearly written and addressed to the Parliament or the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. During daily proceedings of the House, your MPP may present this petition to the legislature. No debate is allowed on the presentation of a petition. Within eight sessional days of the presentation of the petition, the government files a response to it with the Clerk of the House. A copy of the response is provided to the member who presented the petition.

**Demonstrations** Another way citizens show the legislature how they feel about certain issues is by demonstrating at Queen's Park. Usually demonstrations are held by special interest groups to show they disagree with a piece of legislation. Citizens must get permission and the support of an MPP before they demonstrate at the Legislative Building.

**Ombudsman** The Ombudsman is an officer of the Legislative Assembly independent of political ties or government influences. This person investigates and resolves public complaints about decisions or actions made by government ministries, board, and agencies.

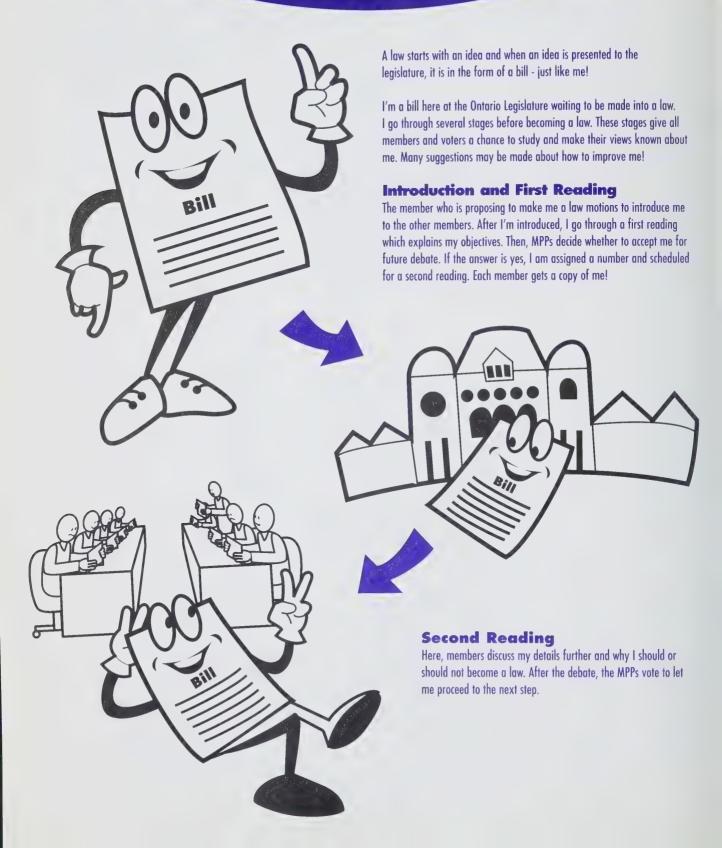


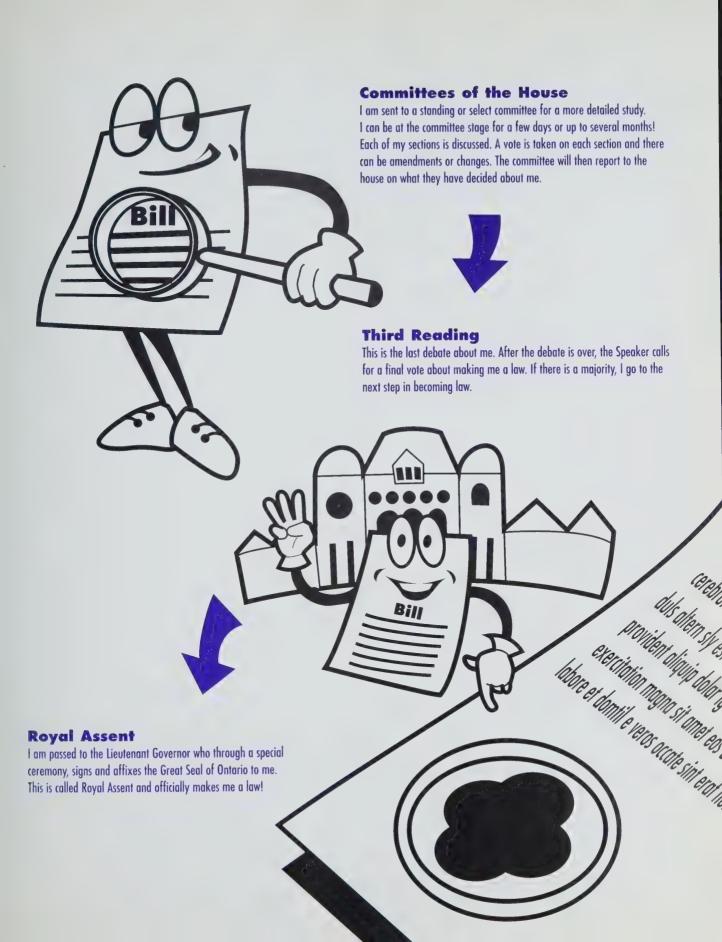


# day in the life of a bill

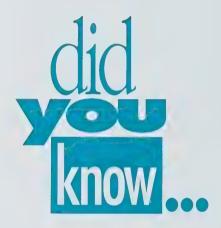


#### A day in the life of a bill









...that over a quarter of a million people come to visit the Legislative Building each year?



his section contains some ideas for classroom activities before and after your visit to the Legislative Building. Some of these exercises provide opportunities for discussion, writing and creative arts. Pre-visit activities are designed to prepare students for their visit and complement their experience here at Queen's Park, Post-visit activities will help students develop their understanding and knowledge of the parliamentary process in Ontario.







#### activities

These activities sheets enclosed in this resource package will assist you with information in preparation for your visit to Queen's Park and in your classroom studies. Suggestions for lessons, projects and proposed activities, both pre-and post-visit, are tied to the resources which make up this education package, and also allow other curriculum components to be included in the study plan.

Activity suggestions may be adapted depending on the ages and language levels of the students involved. The materials which make up this kit may be copied and internally distributed. The design of the kit allows for storage of class and teacher-specific materials and constant reuse of the components. The activities have been grouped using the icons and sections which make up the education package, with many able to be used with several sections, depending how a question is adapted to specific lesson and curriculum levels and needs. Please feel free to adapt this material and to add to it from your own teaching and lesson planning experiences. We would also be happy to hear from you with your experiences so that we may learn from you and revise and update our resources in the future.

Our education and interpretation goal is that your visit to the Legislative Assembly, and the study of the parliamentary process in Ontario and the province's history, be a valuable and constructive learning experience for you and your students.



#### History and Heritage

- If you were to design a flag to represent and reflect the province, what would you include and why? Illustrate your version of the provincial flag. (See the symbols of Ontario card in the edukit section "History and Heritage" for the current flag and to get ideas).
- Coats of Arms help to "tell the story" of the people they represent. Coats of Arms are symbols used to identify and represent royalty, countries, provinces, political organizations, cities, hospitals, universities, individuals, families, private companies and other corporate bodies.
- Taking into account your family's traditions and history, design your own coat of arms including the motto. Traditionally, coats of arms include things like a shield, a motto just below it, supporters (symbolic creatures) on each side of the shield and, if possible, a helmet and arms (defensive weapons).

For ideas, look at Ontario's coat of arms which is pictured on the symbols card in the kit. You will note the 'supporters' of the moose and deer are animals found in the province; the maple leaves give an idea of Ontario's natural resources and the Cross of St. George, the patron saint of England, reflects the origins of the parliamentary system.

When you are finished, share your coat of arms with a friend. Now that you have made one for yourself, you might like to design one for your class or school. Display it for others to see.

- Research the history, traditions and culture of your family and make a presentation to the class complete, if possible, with such items as photos, drawings and maps which support and reflect your family's heritage and experiences. One way to present this community study is by creating a three-dimensional shape (such as a small cube) with information listed and drawn on the sides.
- Working together in teams, research and make a presentation about the architecture and history of a building that interests you in your community. Explain why the building was built and how it serves your community. To support your research, you may wish to visit the building; you may also interview the current, and past, users. The presentation may include drawings, photographs and videos. Some suggestions include historic houses and sites, places of worship, schools (your school!), train stations, city\town halls, or banks. Report on your favourite building.
- Compose a song or poem which recounts Ontario's history from the explorers to Confederation. Stage or perform this piece in which you tell your story complete, if possible, with costume and props.
- You are the first premier of a new province in a new country. It is expected that you form the cabinet and, thus, decide which ministries are most representative and encompassing of the possible areas of concern within your province. Which ministries would you create? Why? (see the section "Leading a Province" in the section *Parliamentary Players*)

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#### activities

#### History and Heritage (contd)

- Research a former lieutenant governor or premier of Ontario and write a brief one-page biography about his or her life. Write a speech about some of the highlights from this person's career. Present a speech about this person in costume through the use of first-person interpretation.
- If you were John Graves Simcoe, Ontario's first Lieutenant Governor in the 1790s, where in the province would you have chosen the site of parliament? Explain your reasons remembering to think about a capital's need for centrality, its geographical situation, transportation of goods and services to other parts of the province and any other factors.

Some background: In choosing the site for Canada's capital in the mid-1800s, Queen Victoria based her decision on Ottawa's geographical situation in relation to the first four provinces and its size. She also took into the account the surrounding forestry and its natural protection from a possible American invasion. Competing for the honour of being the capital were the larger cities of Kingston, Montreal, Toronto and Quebec City. Her unexpected choice was the small lumber town of Bytown, later known as Ottawa, which became a hub for the new country.

- Create a fact sheet with interesting historical and present-day trivia about your city or town. Add the information to your resource kit. Hint: Population? Major industries? Number of M.P.P.s in legislature? (see the Toronto trivia sheet in the kit).
- Write and stage a play or docudrama about a milestone in Ontario history for a program on Ontario's history and heritage. An example might include a short docudrama of the first women ever to be elected to Ontario's parliament. Research the circumstances and facts surrounding these events. This can be done as a class project and produced in a video format. Or, write and produce a documentary that examines an issue important



to Ontarians today. Give credit to your sources of information and explore all parts of the matter. If possible, include interviews and present the final product to the class or school. People in the community may be interested in seeing the final presentation.

• Members of Provincial Parliament are busy people. In addition to debating in the Legislative Chamber, they have to work in committee, in their office and in their riding. Investigate a Member's job and show what you would do if you were an MPP for a day.

Invite your Member of Provincial Parliament to visit your class and explain his/her job in person. To prepare for the Member's visit, look through your local newspaper and watch your local television station and find stories where your MPP is mentioned. What can you tell from the media coverage about a Member's family, profession, interests, policies and beliefs. Prepare a list of questions to ask the Member about his/her job. Phrase questions to address, who, what, when, where, why and how. Based on the questions and the visit, write a feature story about your Member's life.

- Have the class (in teams) research, using the local newspapers and other media, a specific issue regarding a provincial responsibility and write to your Member of Provincial Parliament. The letters should comment on the current situation and offer ideas and solutions for your Member to consider. (See Democracy at Work "Having Your Say").
- Study and report on the role of a backbench Member of Provincial Parliament. Concentrate on the work that may be done by a Member in committee. Make a presentation to the class about the committee process -- the different types of committee -- the role MPPs play in committee work. (See Democracy at Work "Legislative Process")
- Hold a model parliament in which everyone in your class is randomly assigned to a fictional party. Think up two or three proposals for legislation and then assign, again at random, a view/stance to each party. Hint: Create three or four parties (depending on the number of individuals in your class) and arrange the desks in your classroom according to party stance. Elect a classmate to be the Speaker (in other words, an impartial referee between the parties during the debate) and let your teacher be the "Head Clerk" to oversee the general progression of the debate and election of the speaker is fair and accepted by all.
- Working in teams, set up and hold a mock debate on an issue of interest to your class/community between two Members of Provincial Parliament. One team could represent the government, the other the opposition. Pick a subject, introduce it and debate the issue for 10 minutes. Discuss what you learned and use it in your studies.

#### activities

#### Art and Architecture

• This is a proposal for an architectural walking tour of downtown Toronto which may be used when a class is visiting Ontario's provincial capital. For groups unable to visit Toronto, one activity could be to take the drawing of the Legislative Building at Queen's Park (it's on the inside jacket cover of "Parliament, People and Places") and compare it with your local town/city hall. Questions to be asked include: Is it the same style of architecture? If not, what is the style of architecture of the building? Do some research. The groups could also compare the photos included for the downtown Toronto tour with buildings near their school and home.

The Romanesque Revival style has been used in the design of many types of buildings, ranging from churches, to commercial buildings, to administrative buildings and others.

Take a walking tour of downtown Toronto and enjoy a variety of buildings designed in the Romanesque Revival style. The route of the tour is very flexible, but plan to take at least half a day for it. Visit four or more of the buildings listed and examine them carefully. What features do all of the buildings have in common? What similarities/differences do you notice with other buildings in the surrounding area?

One way to make the comparison easier is to draw sketches of the general shape of the buildings and then pay attention to detailing. Draw an outline of the building. Write a list of what you think are its distinguishing characteristics.

What types of materials have been used on the exterior of the building, and on the inside of the buildings that are open to the public? Why would the artisans use these materials? There are historical plaques on many of these buildings. Try to find them. A list follows:



Downtown Toronto Romanesque Revival style buildings include:

- 135 St. George. George Gooderham House (now called York Club). (Architect David Roberts 1889-1892) (North-east corner of Bloor and St. George St.)
- Queen's Park (College and University)
- Old City Hall 60 Queen St. West (Architect E.J. Lennox).
- St.Andrews Church 189 King St. W. (Architect William G. Storm 1874-75). (Norman Romanesque Revival)
- Ontario College of Art (Architect E.J. Lennox 1891-94) 149 College St. (just west of University).
- The Confederation Life Building 2-14 Richmond St East. (Architect Knox Elliot and Jarvis 1890-92) (Yonge and Richmond).
- Many buildings on the University of Toronto grounds including: Wycliffe College (5 Hoskin Ave.) (Architect David B. Dick 1888-92); Victoria College at 73 Queen's Park Ave East (Architect William G. Storm 1892); The Departments of French and English 7 King's College Circle (Architect David B. Dick 1892).

Some reference books to use in your exploration of the "Romanesque Revival" style of architecture include:

Arthur, Eric. From Front Street To Queen's Park. McClelland and Stewart Limited. Toronto, 1979.

Arthur, E.R. Toronto: No Mean City. University of Toronto Press. Toronto, 1964.

Careless, J.M.S. <u>Toronto to 1918 An Illustrated History The History of Canadian Cities</u> J. Lorimer, Toronto, 1984.

Dendy, William, and Kilbourn, William. <u>Toronto Observed: Its Architecture, Patrons, and History.</u> Oxford University Press Canada, Toronto, 1986.

Filey, Mike. Not A One-Horse Town: 125 Years of Toronto and Its Streetcars. Firefly Books, Toronto, 1990.

Ford, Anne Rochon. <u>A Path Not Strewn With Roses: One Hundred Years Of Women At The University Of Toronto</u>, 1884-1984. University of Toronto Press, Toronto, 1985.

Gowans, Alan, Looking at Architecture in Canada. Toronto, 1958.

Hall, Roger. <u>A Century to Celebrate/Un centenaire à fêter 1893-1993</u>. The Ontario Legislative <u>Building/L'Édifice de l'Assemblée législative de l'Ontario.</u> Dundurn Press. Toronto and Oxford 1993.

McHugh, Patricia. <u>Toronto Architecture: A City Guide</u> (2nd edition) McClelland and Stewart, Toronto, 1985.

Richardson, Douglas (ed), Romanesque Toronto. Toronto, 1971.

Robertson J.R. (Ed.) Landmarks of Toronto, vol 3 William Briggs, Toronto, 1894.

• There are many gargoyles carved on the exterior and interior of the Legislative Building. It is said they were placed in the building to ward off evil spirits. Have the students create their own gargoyle. Have the students decide what they will use it for. What creature (animal) did the student choose? Why? Any number of art techniques may be used -- for example drawing; painting; papier mache; modelling. Be creative!

#### activities

#### Art and Architecture (contd)

• As a class activity, divide the group into three or four design teams and hold an architectural competition for the design of a new parliament building, both the interior and the exterior. After completion, have the students vote on their choice for a building. Then, discuss the decision and decide where a new legislative building should be constructed. You may start from scratch or use the current Legislative Building as an example. For your information, Legislative Building architect Richard A. Waite detailed all aspects of the building, including the door knobs.

A parliament building may include the following (all of these items exist in the current building): A legislative chamber with public galleries; a press gallery; a clerks table; a desk for the Hansard reporters and Sergeant at Arms; committee rooms; an Executive Council (cabinet) meeting area; the Premier's office; a Speaker's office and apartment; a Lieutenant Governor's office/suite; Hansard offices; broadcast and recording services and offices; a library; a welcome/education/reception area; food services (a restaurant/cafeteria); a security office; a museum/exhibit area; health services; a gift shop; an office, classroom and change area for the page programme; and restrooms.

- Using old newspapers and other materials, create a collage showing the layout of the Legislative Chamber and some of its key people. Redesign and organize the Legislative Chamber using a variety of materials. Look at different parliaments in Canada and the United States for ideas of shape, seating needs, and size.
- On the exterior of the Legislative Building, the part on the top of the chamber is called the frieze. There are symbolic figures which represent agriculture, music, commerce, art, science, law, philosophy, architecture, engineering and literature.



If students were to carve a new frieze, what characters would be included in the frieze? The poster that is part of the jacket for this book will help.

- There are two separate time capsules on the grounds at Queen's Park which that contain objects that illustrate what life was like when they were put in place. One that is scheduled to be opened in 2067 by the Speaker, the other in 2093 at the 200th birthday of the parliament building. Create a time capsule with your class. Where would it be placed? What would you put in it? When would it be opened? Items could include newspapers, recordings, clothes in fashion, videotapes, and pictures. Find out what is placed in the two time capsules at Queen's Park.
- There are many statues on the grounds of Queen's Park to remember people who are important to Ontario and Canada's history, such as Queen Victoria, Oliver Mowat, Sir John A. Macdonald, John Sandfield Macdonald and George Brown. Design/draw/sculpt a statue of someone who is important in each student's life. Who is it? Why was that person chosen? Have an art display to show these works to your school and community.

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#### activities

Parliamentary
Players and
Inside the Chamber

- The mace is a golden crowned staff which symbolizes the Speaker's authority in the House. Business of the House cannot be conducted unless the mace is in the Chamber. Construct your own mace using paper, paint, decorative items and your imagination. You have a choice of either reproducing the mace used today, or designing your own. Prepare a display of your work for the entire class. Then, have a class discussion about the origin and purpose of the mace.
- The Legislative Chamber is the centrepiece of the Ontario Legislative Building. Throughout the room are carvings of mythical beasts, gargoyles and faces of the artists who designed the Chamber. Have a look around! What animals can you find? Where are the gargoyles and why are they there? How many faces do you see? Who do they represent? Report to the class what language the inscriptions are in and what they mean. For example, so that future generations would remember them, the woodcarvers who worked in the chamber made plaster casts of their faces and put them in the walls. Bring these carvings to the attention of the students during the visit. Afterwards, take a few minutes and focus on the faces in the chamber and their different locations.
- Who are the Legislative Pages? What is their role in the Chamber? How are Pages chosen and what are the requirements of being a Page? Make a list of the tasks they perform each day. Write a letter to the Office of the Speaker (Page programme coordinator) to ask for some information about the Queen's Park Page programme. Present the findings to your class. If a school student is interested in applying to the program, write a letter to support the person's application. Or, find out about the Page programmes with the different legislatures and the federal parliament in Canada. Present these findings to your class.
- Interview a Page on videotape. Interview questions could include how he or she became a Page; what a Page does on a typical day. Has there ever been a Page from your school? Report on what they remember about being a Page.



- The Standing Orders are rules the Members of Provincial Parliament must follow in the House. These rules ensure that the business of the House is conducted in an orderly, proper and fair manner. Watch how the Members interact in the House. Make a list of the rules you observed while watching the debate (debates may be watched in the classroom or the school). The Ontario Legislature is broadcast on the ONTPARL network and carried by most of the cable companies in Ontario. Note any rule you think may be necessary for the proper function of the session. Compare these rules with the rules you have in your classroom. Discuss these rules in relation to historic and current events and define what impact they may have on the parliamentary process.
- Hansard is the official report of debates in the Ontario Legislature. In the Chamber, the microphones on members' desks record the speeches. This microphone records only one voice at a time. A reporter, sitting at the Hansard desk on the floor of the Chamber, takes note of any remarks made by other members. These remarks are called interjections.

Choose an issue you would like to discuss and organize a debate in class. Use a tape recorder to record the speeches, and appoint a few Hansard reporters to take note of the interjections. After the debate, produce a transcript of the discussion using the notes. Discuss the importance of Hansard with your classmates. What is its significance and why do you think it is necessary? Who is it available to and who do you think uses it? Discuss why the Hansard service is important.

Discuss with your classmates or write an essay about what you think Hansard will be like in the future. Currently, technology is changing the way Hansard is delivered to all interested parties. Investigate and report on the ways technology will affect the Hansard reporting operation.

• The MPPs, Clerk and Clerks Assistants, Legislative Pages, Hansard reporters and Sergeant at Arms are integral players in the Chamber. Discuss each of their roles, responsibilities and job characteristics.

What would a typical day in the life of these people include? More specifically, what functions do they perform in the House?

How do they interact in the House? For example: What is the relationship between the Pages and the MPPs? What about the relationship between the Sergeant at Arms and the MPPs? Discuss and report on the interaction between the different officers in the House.

Write a report about who can perform these various jobs. What are the job requirements? How would you obtain one of these positions? Outline a career path and the areas of interest and study you would need to obtain one of these jobs.

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#### activities

#### Democracy at Work

- More than a hundred years ago, elections in the Province of Ontario took place over several days. Election booths were set up in different cities on different days, and sometimes it took several weeks to hold elections. Explain some of challenges presented by this type of system. Explain any need for change. What do you think elections will be like in the future? Describe what it might be like in a vote one hundred years from now. As contrast, write a story about what several days may have been like on Ontario's early election trail in the 1870s.
- In what year did the governments of Upper Canada and Lower Canada obtain responsible government. Have the students write and present a speech outlining the issues which show how responsible government is part of the Canadian heritage.
- Why is it important to vote? Write a report and make a presentation giving some of the reasons. Include thoughts about might happen if no one voted on election day.
- As part of your studies (such as neighbourhood and community studies), include the name of your provincial riding. Find out in which electoral riding your school or home is located and write down its name. Find out the boundaries of your riding either by looking at a map of electoral districts of Ontario, or by phoning Elections Ontario. Draw a map of your riding locate your school and your home on the map and locate other places in your community where you visit or which are important.
- Write a story or make a first person presentation or speech about the first women ever to become politically involved at the Legislative Assembly of Ontario (either at the beginning of the 20th century, or when women were first elected MPPs in 1943). Or, write a story or present a speech you would make after your first election to the Ontario Legislature.
- Research and write a short essay about women in politics today and what you think about their position today in contrast with the 1920s to 1940s.



- What is the purpose of Question Period in the Legislative Assembly? What are some of the characteristics of Question Period. Why, in your students' opinions, does this occur? Have the students stage a "mock" Question Period. The process may be videotaped. Create/draft a new bill for introduction in the Ontario Legislature. Remember, it must be based on a appropriate political issue under provincial responsibility. Based on the fact, would your bill be private or government? Present these reasons during a class discussion. (This question may be combined with the idea of holding a model parliament. See Democracy at Work "Having Your Say").
- Divide the class. Out of a hat, each student picks out the role they have to play during election day. Roles: Chief of Elections; Officers administering the elections; Enumerators; Voters; Candidates; Scrutineer; Returning Officers.

This can be an interesting activity done before the proposed Model Parliament. The two activities (Election Day and Model Parliament) go hand-in-hand! Have some students be "potential candidates" so that the other students can vote for somebody. Materials: Several boxes (for ballots); Ballot paper; Pencils; Large cardboard screen (to cast ballot). Elections Ontario may have available materials, 1-800-668-2727 Out of a 'hat', have the students pick roles. (Speaker, Sergeant at Arms, Lieutenant Governor). Divide the rest of the class into political parties (number of parties may depend on class size) each with a political leaders. Go through a typical day in the House. Pre-determine two or three proposals for legislation and then assign, at random, a stance/view to each party. The teacher may be the "Head-Clerk" to oversee that the general progression of the debate and election of the Speaker.

- Create an advertisement for the local newspaper announcing a new political party for young people such as yourself. What would be some of its ideas and goals (platform)? Imagine, prepare and present a speech for the class announcing your new party. Create and promote a logo or slogan for your party. Is there a song that might identify your party's goals? How would you promote this new party (media? internet? campaigning?)
- Divide the class among the following groups: Party candidates, press and general public. The group forming the party nominates a leader who, in turn, gives the other party members responsibilities. Then, have the press and public groups question the party members.
- Plan a class trip. With a partner, choose a local attraction which you would like to visit and plan a budget, the itinerary and how to raise some funding for a class excursion to this site. Put all the information on one sheet and make a presentation to the class. (This is similar to the Budget process at the legislature).

Or, look at budgets at a more in-depth level. As Premier of the province, you must decide what will be included in your government's agenda over the next several months in the Legislature. Make proposals for several programs that you would like to address during the session. Devise and present a budget for these programs.

• Create a quiz based on the history or geography of Ontario. In the junior grades, this could be tied into country studies and at the intermediate and senior levels, this could relate to the parliamentary process and the development of responsible government in the 1840s in Ontario/Canada. Questions could be similar to those asked of applicants for Canadian citizenship. Dec. 1995

# Refer

## did know...

...that in 1993 the collection of the Legislative Library at Queen's Park included 92,840 books and subscriptions to 933 journals and 314 newspapers?

In this section you will find suggestions for further reading materials and a glossary which will help you in understanding the language of parliament.

## Reference





# Reference

#### reference

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## reference

# Glossary

**Act** - A bill which has been given first, second and third reading by the Legislature. It becomes law upon receiving the signature of the Lieutenant Governor signifying Royal Assent.

**Adjournment** - The period between the termination of a meeting of the House and the start of the next meeting. An interruption in the course of the same session.

**Amendment -** A proposal by a member that seeks to modify a motion, or section of a bill, in order to increase its acceptability or to present a different proposal. All amendments are in the form of a motion altering the text of the original motion.

**Backbencher** - A "private member" who is not a minister, parliamentary assistant or leading member of the opposition. Historically, he or she occupied a back bench in the Legislative Chamber.

**Ballot** - A paper for voting in an election which has the names of candidates running. Also refers to item numbers for Private Members Business; and to sequential votes for election of the Speaker.

**Bicameral** - A legislative body with two houses. For example, the Parliament of Canada has an upper and lower house — the Senate and the House of Commons.

**Bill** - A proposed law. Bills must go through three readings, usually a committee process and Royal Assent before they become law.

**Budget** - The government's estimates on how much their programs will cost and where they will get the money to pay for them.

**By-election** - Elections held between general elections to replace members who have died or have resigned from the Legislative Assembly.

**Cabinet** - This governing body is made up of the ministers of government departments and the Premier. This body advises the Premier. The ministers are appointed by the Lieutenant Governor on the recommendation of the Premier and are usually chosen from elected members of the Party which forms the government. The cabinet formulates government policies and is responsible for the administration of all the ministries of government. Cabinet meets regularly to set the business it will propose to the legislature.

**Cabinet minister** - A member of the cabinet or executive council. Cabinet ministers introduce and debate bills. They also administer specific government departments and formulate government policy.





**Candidate** - A person chosen to represent a political party for a certain electoral district or a person who runs as an independent in an election; a person who stands for election.

**Canonical** - Laws relating to the clergy.

**Caucus** - All the elected members from one party; private meeting of the parliamentary members of a party.

**Chamber -** The room in the Legislative Building at Queen's Park where the Legislative Assembly meets for its business.

**Citizen** - From the Latin word *civitas* meaning city. A citizen is an inhabitant of a province or country who has certain rights and responsibilities.

**Clerk** - Assists the Speaker and is the principal officer of the House. The Clerk is also the administrative director of the Office of the Legislative Assembly. The reporting relationship between the Clerk and the Speaker is similar to the relationship between a department's minister and deputy minister. The Clerk and the Clerks Assistant provide procedural advice to the Speaker and to the members. The Clerk is responsible for compiling all official documents of the House.

**Closure** - The procedure by which a debate may be terminated by a majority decision of the house, even though all members wishing to speak may not have had the opportunity to do so.

**Committee of the Whole House** - A committee consisting of all members of the house which meets in the Chamber. The Speaker vacates the chair and the Deputy Speaker takes over as chair of the committee.

**Confederation -** The forming of a nation by the union of different colonies or provinces. A confederation is united by a common government or a common set of laws. The responsibilities of governing are split between the national, or federal, level and the provincial level. There is also a municipal level of government. The colonies or provinces also give up some of their powers and responsibilities to the national government. In Canada, four provinces originally united into a confederation in 1867 — Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Ontario.

**Constituency** - Electoral boundaries defined by population and rural or urban location. There are 130 constituencies in Ontario with a member elected from each one.

**Constitution** - A document which sets out basic principles and laws of a nation, state or social group. These principles and laws determine the powers and duties of a government and guarantee certain rights to the people under it.

**Constitutional monarchy -** A system of government in which the supreme law is the nation's constitution but the head of state is the monarch. In Canada, the head of state is the Queen represented by the Governor General and in the provinces by the Lieutenant Governor.

**Democracy** - Comes from the Greek words "demos" meaning people and "kratos" meaning strength. This literally means government by the people and the rule of the majority. It is a system of government where the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised indirectly through their elected representatives.

**Dissolution** - Means by which the parliament comes to an end. The Lieutenant Governor dissolves the legislature on the Premier's request. An election always follows dissolution.

**Division** - The taking of recorded votes in the house or one of its committees. In the house, members rise as their names are called, and they vote for or against a motion. This vote is recorded in the *Votes and Proceedings*.

**Election -** This is the process where citizens choose a person to act as their representative.

**Elections Ontario** - The office that administers elections in Ontario by making sure that voting laws are adhered to fairly.

**Electoral Boundaries Commission** - A body, independent from the government, which makes recommendations to the Ontario legislature to determine if more seats should be added or if riding boundaries should be changed.

**Electoral district** - A geographical area that a member represents. See constituency, riding.

**Enumeration** - The process of the compilation of the list of all eligible voters.

**Estimates -** The proposed expenditures for each government department, agency, board and commission.

**Executive Council** - Also called the cabinet. Composed of the Premier and the ministers who exercise executive power.

**Family Compact** - A ruling group in Canada during the early 1800s made up of the wealthier and exclusive section of society, including landowners. This group was opposed to the system of responsible government or government which derives its power from the people.

**Filibustering -** The use of tactics to delay passage of a bill. For instance, using long speeches and comments to consume time.

**First-past-the-post system -** This is also called the plurality system, where the candidate who wins the most votes in each constituency is the winner, regardless if this is less than 50 per cent of the votes cast.

**Full manhood suffrage** - This gave the right to vote to all male citizens over the age of 21. In Ontario, Premier Oliver Mowat instituted full manhood suffrage in 1888.

**Gerrymandering** - A practice that could be termed "undemocratic", where the party in power draws electoral or constituency boundaries to its advantage.

**Government** - The political party with the greatest number of elected members; refers to the government body of a province, state or country, which makes and administers laws.

**Governor General** - The Queen's representative in Canada. This person is responsible for giving Royal Assent to all federal bills to become federal law.

**Hansard** - The verbatim record of daily proceedings of the house and its committees.

**House** - The Legislative Assembly of Ontario, consisting of 130 members, including the Speaker. Also refers to the Legislative Chamber, the room where the Legislative Assembly meets.

**House of Commons -** The legislative body of Canada which proposes, debates and passes laws.

**House Leader** - Each party has one member who is appointed to this position. The House Leader is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the party in the legislature. The House Leader for the governing party is always a member of cabinet and assists in managing the affairs of the legislature. The Government House Leader is responsible for announcing the daily order of house business. All House Leaders meet weekly to plan the business of the legislature.

**Ideology** - This is a set of political and economic principals and beliefs about society.

**Independent Member -** A member of provincial parliament who does not belong to any political party.

**Judiciary** - The branch of government which interprets and enforces laws. The judiciary is composed of the courts, the judges and chief justices and protects the rights of citizens from both the government and fellow citizens.

**Leader of the Official Opposition** - The leader of the political party with the second largest number of seats in the legislative assembly.

**Legislation** - laws; principles that govern actions and/or procedures of society which are administered by the government and enforced by the judiciary. A law is an act of parliament, or a law made by parliament. This is a bill which has passed all three readings in the house and has received the Lieutenant Governor's Royal Assent.

**Legislative Assembly -** The governing body which debates and makes laws. It is sometimes referred to as the legislature, or the house.

Legislature - see parliament, house, legislative assembly.

**Lieutenant Governor** - The person who is the provincial representative of the Queen and the ceremonial head of state. This person is appointed by the Governor General on the recommendation of the Prime Minister. The Lieutenant Governor opens, suspends and dissolves the Legislative Assembly and gives or withholds Royal Assent to bills passed by the Legislative Assembly.

**Mace** - The ceremonial staff used in parliament which symbolizes the authority of the Speaker to oversee the legislature. The mace is carried into the Chamber each day at the beginning of a sitting.

Magna Carta - A charter signed by King John of England in 1215. It attacked the absolute powers of the monarch and guaranteed fundamental rights and privileges to the people. The provisions of the Magna Carta were: a fair trial for all; preservation of ancient liberties; fundamental principles of government; the requirement of the King (monarch) to uphold laws and the prohibition of the monarch from making new laws without consulting the Great Council. This charter was significant in that it represented the beginning of parliamentary democracy as we know it, in that the monarch could not make laws without consulting others.

**Majority government -** When the total number of government seats in the house exceeds the total number of opposition seats.

**Member of Provincial Parliament** - An individual, elected by the people, in a particular electoral district or constituency to represent them in the provincial parliament.

**Ministers** - These people are chosen by the Premier, usually from members of a governing party; they are responsible for government departments and the administration of these departments. They also defend their proposed legislation (bills). See also cabinet ministers.

**Minority government -** When the total number of opposition seats in the house exceeds the total number of government seats.

**Motion** - A proposal made by a member, in order to elicit a decision from the house. The house will express its decision by either agreeing, disagreeing or amending a motion.

**Non-confidence vote** - An opposition member may call for a vote of non-confidence against the government. If this vote passes, the government is said to have lost the confidence of the house and usually resigns.

**Non-partisan -** In reference to the Speaker, it means that the person in this position does not let personal or political opinions influence the way the job is done. The Speaker must treat all members equally and fairly, with no regard to political affiliation.

**Notice of enumeration** - A card which gives details about how to register to vote in an election.

**Official opposition** - The party with the second highest number of members elected. It is their job to study government legislation, politics and programs and offer alternatives.

**Order-in-council** - Decree made by the Lieutenant Governor issued with the advice of the Executive Council.

**Orders of the day** - Part of the sitting of the house in which the order, or agenda, of legislative business for that day is presented.

**Orders and Notices -** Published through the Clerk's office, this publication lists bills, government business, written questions, private members' business, and committee information on a daily basis for each sitting. This publication lists everything available to the house for consideration. It may also be called the Order Paper.

**Parliament** - The legislature, or legislative assembly. It is also the period from the opening of the first session immediately following a general election to the end of a government's term and the calling of another election. Each parliament consists of one or more sessions.

**Parliamentary privilege** - Rights and immunities which belong to the assembly, the members and others essential to the operation of the assembly, allowing those involved in the parliamentary process to fulfil their duties without obstruction or fear of prosecution. Members cannot be sued or prosecuted for what they say during legislative proceedings.

**Petition** - A document that requests that the government or legislature take some action or change its position on some question of public policy.

**Phurality system** - Candidate who wins the most votes in each constituency is the winner, regardless if this is less than 50 per cent of the votes cast.

**Point of order** - Members may draw to the attention of the Chair or Speaker an alleged breach of parliamentary rules through a point of order. The Speaker rules on these points and such rulings are not debatable or subject to appeal.

**Political party** - Group of individuals united by common political and economic beliefs about society which interacts with communities, interest groups and individuals.

**Politics** - From the Greek word 'politikos' meaning the art or science of government; concerned with winning and holding control over a government.

**Precedent** - A past ruling or practice that sets an example for similar action in the future; convention established by long practice.

**Premier** - After a provincial election, the leader of the party with the greatest number of elected candidates heads the provincial government as Premier.

**Prime Minister** - After the federal election, the leader of the party with the greatest number of elected candidates becomes the Prime Minister.

**Private bill** - A bill which confers particular powers, benefits or exemptions from general law, on a specific person or body of persons, including individuals, local authorities, and statutory and private corporations.

**Private members' bill** - A public bill which is introduced by a private member instead of by the government.

**Proclamation** - An official public announcement; refers to the date a law comes into force set by cabinet and proclaimed by the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council.

**Prorogation** - The act by which the Lieutenant Governor brings a session of the Legislative Assembly to an end. This is different from dissolution which terminates a parliament. Prorogation is more like the suspension of parliament. Unfinished business dies, unless carried over to the next session by a motion that it remain on the order paper in the next session.

**Public bill** - A bill which relates to matters of public policy. It usually has a general application over the entire province.

**Question period** - The period during a parliamentary day which lasts for 60 minutes. The opposition and government members ask questions about government activity.

**Readings** - The stages through which a bill passes; that is: first reading, second reading and third reading. A bill is introduced during first reading and debated during the second and third readings.

**Recess** - The period between prorogation and the day on which the house meets in a new session. It may also refer to any temporary interruption in a meeting of the house or committee, for example, a lunch break on Thursdays; or a recess in proceedings for grave disorder.

Responsible government - A concept which developed as early as the 13th century in Britain, with the idea that there would be representatives who would have to report to the people in their area. Today, this term refers to the idea that the government needs the approval of a majority in the assembly and the formal head of state (Governor General, Lieutenant Governor) must act under the advice of ministers who are members of the legislature.

**Routine motions -** Motions which do not require notice, usually dealing with the technical and administrative procedures of the House.

**Royal Assent -** The Lieutenant Governor gives approval to a bill on behalf of the Queen by signing the bill.

**Select committee** - Select committees are set up specifically to study certain bills or issues and according to the Standing Orders, consist of not more than 11 members from all parties with representation reflecting the current standing in the house. In some cases, the committee must examine material by a specific date and then report its conclusion to the legislature. After its final report, the committee is dissolved.

**Senate -** The upper house of the federal parliament of Canada. The federal parliament has a bicameral system consisting of an upper house called the Senate and a lower house, called the House of Commons. The Senate approves laws passed by the lower house (House of Commons) and may pass legislation that is not monetary in nature. The Senate consists of non-elected members who are appointed by the Prime Minister.

**Sergeant at Arms -** Custodian of the mace which symbolizes the authority of the Speaker in the house. The Sergeant at Arms is also responsible for the furniture, fittings and security in the house and in the Legislative Building and grounds.

**Session -** A series of meetings in the legislature making up a parliament. Sessions may be divided into spring and fall periods called sittings.

**Shadow cabinet** - A collective term for the critics in each of the opposition parties, particularly those in the official opposition, who might comprise the cabinet should the party come to power. These critics scrutinize the programs and policies of the government department to which they are assigned.

**Speaker** - The member who is elected by all the members of the legislature to preside over all meetings of the house in a fair and impartial manner. The Speaker upholds all the rules of procedure and ensures that the business of the house is carried out in an orderly manner.

**Speaker's procession** - Each meeting of the house begins with the entrance of the Speaker. The Sergeant at Arms enters the Legislative Chamber in front of the Speaker, carrying the mace, the symbol of the Speaker's authority. The Speaker is followed by the Clerk, Clerks Assistant and usually two pages. This is called the Speaker's procession.

**Speech from the Throne** - The speech delivered by the Lieutenant Governor for each new session of parliament. This speech outlines the government's plans and initiatives for the session.

**Standing Committee** - A committee which exists for the duration of a parliamentary session. This committee examines and reports on the general conduct of activities by government departments and agencies and reports on matters referred to it by the house, including proposed legislation.

Standing orders - The rules of procedure in the house.

**Statements by the Ministry and responses** - Period of the parliamentary day where ministers may make short statements about government policy, ministerial programs and other actions which the house should be informed about.

**Treaty of Paris** - The document which was signed ending a four-year war between England and France in the mid-1700s. The Treaty of Paris gave Britain responsibility for all the territories of New France, which included the lands we now know as Ontario and Quebec.

Unicameral - Has only one house of parliament.

**Warrants** - When issued, it requires the attendance of witnesses or documents before legislative committees. Warrants are also issued to call elections.

**Whip** - A member of each party who ensures the presence of party members in the legislature or at committee meetings to maintain adequate representation should a vote be held. Also arranges the business of his or her party in the house and informs party members of forthcoming business.

**Writs of election -** Document which sets an election in process prepared by the Chief Elections Officer.

efcoo

EICooo

The material in this section has been written specifically for students who are studying English as a Second Language.

The activities sheets and materials which are part of this education kit may also be used in preparation for your visit to Queen's Park and in your classroom studies. Suggestions for lessons, projects and activities, both pre-and post-visit, are tied to the resources which make up this education package, and also allow other curriculum components to be included in the study plan.

Activity suggestions may be adapted to accommodate the language levels of the students involved. The materials which make up this kit may be copied and internally distributed. The design of the kit allows for storage of class and teacher-specific materials and constant reuse of the components. Please feel free to adapt this material and to add to it from your own teaching and lesson planning experiences. We would also be happy to hear from you with your experiences so that we may learn from you and revise and update our resources in the future.

Our education and interpretation goal is that your visit to the Legislative Assembly, and the study of the parliamentary process in Ontario and the province's history, be a valuable and constructive learning experience for you and your students. You are welcome to arrange a visit to the Legislative Building through the Information and Education program. Visitors may also obtain passes and sit in the Public Galleries when the House is in session. The Legislative Building is located at College St. and University Ave. in Toronto. For further information, contact the Interparliamentary and Public Relations Branch at (416) 325-7500.

## E S L ACTIVITIES

- 1. There are many cultures living in Canada, each bringing its own ideas and traditions to enrich this society. In fact, the Canadian system of government is based on the British parliamentary system and the American democratic system. Compare the system of government of your country of origin with the Canadian system.
- 2. Did you know that Ottawa, Canada's capital, is one of the coldest capitals in the world, along with places like Ulan Bator, Mongolia? Some people find it difficult to adjust to the climate in Ontario because of its hot summers and cold winters.
  - a) Compare Ontario's climate with another country that you have lived in.
  - b) There are many activities to enjoy in Ontario with the changing climates throughout the year. Examples include ice skating and skiing in winter; swimming and cycling in summer. Describe some activities that were available when you lived in another country.
- 3. Many sports are played in Ontario. In fact, as of 1995 there are four professional sport teams in Toronto: Basketball Toronto Raptors; Baseball Toronto Blue Jays; Football Toronto Argonauts; Hockey Toronto Maple Leafs. What sports are popular in your culture? Are those sports played in Canada? Describe one sport from Canada or another country that you enjoy playing or watching.
- 4. Ontario is a beautiful province with sites and activities for everyone to enjoy. Perhaps you would like to invite a relative or friend to visit Ontario. Write a letter to this person to tell them all about Ontario.
- 5. There are many places to visit in Ontario. Create a scrapbook to collect the brochures, postcards, and other souvenirs that you get from visiting the attractions in Ontario.
- 6. Create a journal to record your new experiences or events that have taken place since you have arrived in Ontario. Be creative, you can draw cartoons or cut out articles from the paper or magazines, recipes, or use current news stories, for example. All of these things can represent something you have enjoyed or learned. After one month of keeping your journal, you may wish to share highlights with the class.

December 1995

## Chamber 'Key' Words

Bill - A proposed law. Bills must be accepted by the House and receive Royal Assent before becoming laws.

Cabinet - The members of provincial parliament chosen by the Premier, who are responsible for the government policies and the ministries of government.

Cabinet Minister - A member of the cabinet. (e.g. the Minister of Finance).

Chamber - The room in the Legislative Building at Queen's Park where the Legislative Assembly meets for its business.

Clerk - The person who assists the Speaker and the members about the rules to follow during the debates.

Confederation - The forming of a nation by the union of different colonies or provinces. A confederation is joined together by a common government or a common set of laws.

Constituency - Boundaries for an election that are defined by population or location. There are 130 constituencies in Ontario with one member elected from each one.

Election - The process where citizens choose a person to act as their representative in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

Government - The political party with the highest number of elected members. The group that makes the laws for a province, state, or country.

Governor General - The King or Queen's representative in Canada who is responsible for giving Royal Assent to all federal bills in order to make them federal laws. Hansard - The word-for-word report of the debates of the House and its committees.

House - The Legislative Assembly of Ontario. This can also describe the room where the Legislative Assembly meets. *see Chamber* 

Independent Member - A member of provincial parliament who does not belong to any political party.

Leader of the Opposition - The leader of the political party with the second largest number of seats in the Legislative Assembly.

Legislative Assembly - The governing body, made up of 130 elected members, that debates and makes laws. Also known as the legislature, or the House.

Legislature - See Legislative Assembly, House.

Lieutenant Governor - The King or Queen's representative in the province. The Lieutenant Governor gives Royal Assent to all provincial bills.

Mace - The ceremonial rod used in parliament to symbolize the authority of the Speaker in the Legislative Assembly.

Member of Provincial Parliament - A person elected by the people of a particular area to represent that area in the provincial parliament. Usually referred to as MPP or Member.

Minister - A member, chosen by the Premier, who is responsible for a particular government department. See Cabinet, Cabinet Minister.

Official Opposition - The party with the second highest number of members elected. The official opposition studies the government ideas and offers alternatives.

Pages - A group of people, usually grade 7 and 8 students, who assist the members during sessions by doing small errands.

Parliament - See Legislative Assembly. Also refers to the time period of a government's term.

Political Party - A organization of individuals united by common beliefs and values about society.

Politics - The art or science of guiding or influencing a government or its policies.

### Chamber 'Key' Words (contd)

Premier - The leader of the party with the greatest number of elected candidates becomes the leader of the provincial government, or Premier, usually after a provincial election.

Question Period - The period during a day in parliament when the opposition and government members ask questions about government activity.

Royal Assent - The Lieutenant Governor, on behalf of the King or Queen, gives approval to a bill by signing it into law.

Sergeant at Arms - The individual responsible for the security in the Legislative Building and grounds. This person is also the keeper of the mace.

Speaker - The Speaker keeps order in the House by making sure that all the rules of procedure are followed.

December 1995

### FILL IN THE BLANKS

Choose the correct word to complete the sentence.

1.	The official flower of Ontario is the(rose/white trillium).
2.	The Legislative Building at Queen's Park was opened in(1893/1825).
3.	The two official languages of the Legislative Assembly are English and(French/German).
4.	The (coat of arms/mace) is the symbol of the Speaker's authority in the Chamber.
5.	There were (130/110) members at the 36th Parliament of Ontario in 1995.

# PICK AND CHOOSE

Match the words on the left with the definitions on the right.

Official Opposition A proposed law.

Government The forming of a nation by the union of different colonies or provinces.

Member A document that sets out basic rules and laws of a nation, state or social

group.

Bill The group that makes the laws for a province, state, or country.

Confederation The governing body that debates and makes laws.

Premier The King or Queen's representative in the province.

Constitution A person elected by the people of a particular area to represent that

area in the provincial parliament.

Lieutenant Governor A member who is responsible for a particular government department.

Minister The party with the second highest number of members elected.

Legislative Assembly The leader of the provincial government.

December 1995

## THE FACTS

Ontario is the second largest province in Canada (1 068 582 km²).

According to Statistics Canada, the country's population, as of 1995, was 29 606 100.

According to Statistics Canada, Ontario's population, as of 1995, was 11 103 300.

According to Statistics Canada, the population of the Greater Toronto area, as of 1995, was 4 235 756.

Statistics Canada estimated Metro Toronto's population in 1995 was 2 275 771.

There are at least sixty cultures found in Metro Toronto.

The name Ontario comes from an Iroquois word that means beautiful lake or sparkling water.

Queen's Park is the fifth Legislative Assembly building in Ontario.

Over 51 tonnes of copper and more than 10.5 million bricks, made by the inmates of the Central Prison on Strachan Avenue in Toronto, were used in the construction of the Legislative Building.

Before the Legislative Assembly was constructed in its current location, the Queen's Park site was used for King's College (University of Toronto), and later The University Hospital.

The number of members (MPPs) at the first Parliament of Ontario in 1867 was 16.

- The number of members (MPPs) at the 36th Parliament of Ontario in 1995 was 130.
- The first women elected to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario were Margarette (Rae) Luckock and Agnes MacPhail. They were elected in the general election of 1943.
- Alexander Graham Bell began work on his invention, the telephone, in Brantford, Ontario (in the late 1800s).
- Kitchener/Waterloo, Ontario holds the annual "Oktoberfest", the second largest Bavarian Festival in the world.
- Manitoulin Island is the largest fresh water island in the world. It is 176 km long and 5 to 80 km wide.
- The world's first quintuplets (the Dionne quintuplets) were born in Corbeil, near North Bay, in 1934.
- The CN Tower in Toronto is 553.3 m high, making it the tallest building in the world.
- Yonge Street in Toronto, which is known as Highway 11 across Ontario, is the world's longest street, at a distance of 1 886.3 km.
- The city of Mississauga has one of the largest land areas of any North American city. In population, it is the ninth largest city in Canada and the fourth largest in Ontario.
- Windsor is Canada's southernmost city.
- Lacrosse is Canada's national sport.
- Ontario is the world's largest producer of nickel. The Sudbury Basin produces about 85% of the world's nickel.
- Ontario is Canada's largest producer of gold. Canada is the fifth largest producer of gold in the world.
- One-fifth of Ontario's area is water.

December 1995

### **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**QUESTION:** Do I call Queen's Park if I have a question

about immigration?

**ANSWER:** No. All questions related to immigration

policy are handled by the federal level of government (the Canadian government).

**QUESTION:** Which level of government takes care of birth

certificates? Marriage licenses? Driver's

licenses?

**ANSWER**: All of these are handled by the provincial

level of government (the Ontario

government). Birth certificates and marriage licenses are taken care of by the Registrar General. Driver's licenses are taken care of

by the Ministry of Transportation.

**QUESTION:** How do I find out who my Member of

Provincial Parliament is, and how can I get

in touch with that person?

**ANSWER**: You can contact Elections Ontario at

(416) 321-3000. Each member has an office both in the riding -- the area they represent - and in Toronto, so you may want to ask for

both phone numbers and addresses.

**QUESTION**: If I did not vote for the person who was

elected in my riding do they still represent

me?

**ANSWER:** It does not matter which political party you

support or who you voted for. The person that is elected represents everyone that lives in their electoral district (also a riding or a constituency), and that includes you. **QUESTION:** Who can vote in the provincial election?

ANSWER: If you are at least 18 years of age, a Canadian citizen and have lived in Ontario for

the six months before an election, then you are eligible to vote.

**QUESTION:** Do I have to vote?

**ANSWER:** There are no fines or penalties in Canada if you choose not to exercise your right to

vote.

**QUESTION:** How often are elections called?

**ANSWER:** An election can be called by the government at any time, but no more than five

years can pass without an election. Remember that the federal government and the

provincial government often call elections at different times.

**QUESTION:** Who represents the Queen in the province of Ontario?

**ANSWER:** The Lieutenant Governor represents the Queen in Ontario. Currently (December

1995) the Lieutenant Governor is the Honourable Henry Jackman.

**QUESTION:** Can my son\daughter become a Legislative Page?

**ANSWER:** Yes, if he\she is in grade 7 or 8 and has an 80% average then he\she can apply to

the Page Programme to enter the competition.

**QUESTION:** How can I keep up with what is going on in my area as well as the province?

**ANSWER:** You may wish to look in the newspapers, or listen to the radio to keep up-to-date

with current affairs. You may also purchase Hansard, which is a word-for-word report of what is happening in the Legislative Assembly, through Publications Ontario, the government bookstore. When the House is sitting you can watch the Legislative channel (ONTPARL) and the news reports on TV to keep up with the

debates in the Legislature.

**QUESTION:** If I am interested in politics how can I get involved?

**ANSWER:** You could contact your member's office in your area. They often need volunteers to

help out and it is a good way to learn more about your community.





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Design by Michael Peters Design and Lightfoot Art & Design Inc.

Printed in Ontario on recycled stock

ISBN 0-7778-2658-5

We welcome your comments about Parliament, People and Places

Reach us at:
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Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Room 191, Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A2

**FINIALS** are located on the centre block of the Building's roof. One of them contains Building's

**WEST WING** 

Constructed of Italian marble after a disastrous fire in 1909, the west wing of the Legislative Building was completed in 1912.



### MOSAIC TILE

Some of the flooring in the Building is made of mosaic tile which can still be



## FRIEZE

SERGEANT

AT ARMS' **SWORD** 

The exterior of the building is no less adorned than the interior. This frieze is located over the main entrance of the Building. At its centre is the Great Seal of Ontario which is surrounded by figures representing art, music, agriculture, science and other pursuits.



### GARGOYLES

The woodwork of the Chamber is hand-carved with no two designs alike Gargoyles carved in the Chamber are supposed to scare away evil spirits.



## SPEAKER'S CHAIR

This chair has been used since Ontario's fourth Speaker in 1874. Each Speaker used to receive his chair as a gift from the Assembly after the term of office was complete. This practice ended in the early 20th century. Now, each Speaker receives a portrait after serving the legislature.



The mace is a symbol of the authority of the Speaker in the legislature. Ontario's mace is copper and richly gilded. It measures 1.2 metres long.



## WOODWORK

Under the Speaker's galle in the Chamber are Latin inscriptions carved into pillars. Translated they state: Boldly and Rightly, By Courage not by Craft, Hear the Other Side and Let us be Viewed by Our Actions.



### **GRAND STAIRCASE**

As you enter the building, the grand staircase invites you up and into the Legislative Chamber.



DINOSAUR

FOSSIL

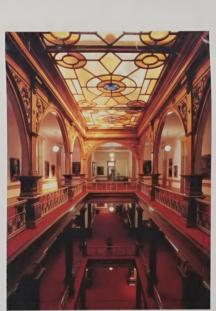
### CHAMBER DOORS

These magnificent doors lead you into the Legislative Chamber which is adorned by huge panels of intricately carved mahogany and Canadian sycamore. The Chamber measures 24 metres long, 18 metres wide and 15 metres high.



### THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COAT OF ARMS

This coat of arms was presented to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario in 1993 to mark the bicentennial of the first Parliament of Upper Canada and the centennial of the present Legislative Building. A symbol of our national and provincial loyalties this coat of arms also represents justice and equity and honours Ontario's First Peoples. The Legislative Assembly Coat of Arms also symbolizes the spirit of discussion and recognizes our heritage as a constitutional monarchy and as a parliamentary form of government.



## STAINED GLASS WINDOW

Richard Waite, the architect of the Legislative Building, took great care to illuminate every part of the Building with natural light. He used such things as an enormous stained glass window in the east wing and large plate glass windows.



### FIRST PARLIAMENT IN ONTARIO PAINTING

This painting by Frederick Challener is located in the main lobby at the Legislative Building and depicts our first legislature which met in Newark, now Niagara-on-the-Lake, in 1792.





## GREAT SEAL

The Great Seal of Ontario is part of the huge carving located high above the front arches of the Legislative Building.



